

**Paper proposal:** due by the start of class on Thursday, **Nov. 18** (the Th before Nov. recess)

**Paper:** due by the start of class on Thursday, **Dec. 9**.

Course papers must directly, substantially, and critically engage with one or more of the assigned readings for our course on issues in epistemology. Successful papers will clearly explain the issues involved and the key argumentative moves made in the readings, and will also advance the discussion/argument in significant ways with new considerations or lines of argument of your own. In most cases, a student's best paper topic will be where she has her best idea about the material we've covered in the course. Just to give a couple of quick illustrative examples of the kind of appropriately-sized topics that could work: Good papers could, for instance, develop a way for the causal theory of knowledge to handle certain types of proposed counter-examples; or argue that rejecting the use of intuitions in philosophy need not undermine itself. Though other sources can be used (being careful to cite them correctly), excellent papers can be written using only assigned readings for our class (which should also be cited). Papers are to be 2,100 - 2800 words long (about 6 – 8 pages), and are due by the start of class on Thursday, April 25, and should be submitted by email attachment to [keith.derose@yale.edu](mailto:keith.derose@yale.edu) .

A 350 -700 word (about 1 – 2 pages) long paper proposal is due by the start of class on Thursday, Nov. 18 ~~March 28~~. This should also be turned in by e-mail attachment to the same addresses as above. It will not be given a letter grade, though the quality of the proposal can be taken into account in determining your course grade, and the course cannot be passed without completing the proposal. Its purpose, in addition to prodding some to start work on (or at least to start thinking about) their course papers, is to give us a chance to check whether your proposed topic is sufficiently relevant to our course, and in some cases to suggest additional reading you might want to consult in writing your paper. In the proposal, you should state what your topic is, what conclusion(s) you will be arguing for, the basic strategy you plan to employ in arguing for your conclusion, and what literature you will be discussing. It is expected that many papers will concern only one or two of our assigned readings, and in such cases, one fairly short sentence will cover that last item.