

PHIL 354
Fall 2002
L. Shapiro

Fourth Paper Topics

Write a 5 pp paper (about 1500 words) on one of the following topics. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, with **12 point** font and margins.

Papers are **due** in my box on **DECEMBER 3, 2002**. While I have been somewhat generous about extensions and late papers thus far this term, extensions will be granted **ONLY** under extraordinary circumstances.

1. Explicate and evaluate Malebranche's argument for his claim that we perceive all things in God. A more successful essay will present the argument for elimination in such a way as to bring out the assumptions driving Malebranche's doctrine. Your evaluation might focus either on the structure of the argument itself or one of the underlying assumptions.
2. Explicate and evaluate Malebrache's argument, as presented in Dialogue 7 of the *Dialogues on Metaphysics*, for occasionalism with regard to body-body interaction. That is, in your essay you should not only present Malebranche's arguments that God is the only cause in nature, but also that for the claim that finite things are but occasional causes. In your evaluation you should focus on one of the premises of the argument.