

### Term Paper Assignment

1. Your term paper will explore an topic in the philosophy of mathematics in greater depth than we have gone in class. All papers must be double spaced, approximately twelve to fifteen pages (3000 to 4500 words) in a reasonable font (12 point Times, for example).
2. You must choose a topic for your term paper before Spring Break. **A one-paragraph description of your paper topic is due on Wednesday, March 12.** You may write on any topic on the syllabus. You may expand one of your seminar papers. Feel free to consult me about your topic. The course bibliography will help you get started with some additional readings. You should follow the bibliographic leads from there.
3. **A preliminary draft of your term paper is due on Monday, April 14.** If you choose to expand one of your seminar papers, the April 14 draft must show evidence of further research. The preliminary draft need not be a finished first draft of the paper, but it must be substantial. Failure to hand in a draft, or handing in an insufficient draft, will reduce your final paper grade by two steps (e.g. from B+ to B-).
4. **The final draft of your paper is due on Wednesday, May 7.** Extensions to the date of the possible final exam will be considered.
5. Some immutable formatting guidelines: Do not right-justify your paper. Print on only one side of each page. Paginate your papers.
6. Observe basic rules of grammar and spelling. Avoid jargon. Write simply, and clearly. Proofread your paper. Ask a good writer to read and comment on your paper; I encourage use of the Writing Center.
7. Avoid history and biography. Focus on the arguments, rather than particular authors' explications of those arguments.
8. Any citation method which allows me easily to trace the source is acceptable. My preferred method involves a list of references at the end of the paper, and citations made parenthetically within the text by merely noting the author and page number: "To be is to be the value of a variable" (Quine 50). If there is more than one work by an author in your list of references, disambiguate using year of publication: "To call a posit a posit is not to patronize it" (Quine 1960: 22). If your list of references contains entries from the same author in the same year, disambiguate using lower-case letters after the year, and indicate the distinction in the list of references: "All we really need in the way of holism... is to appreciate that empirical content is shared by the statements of science in clusters and cannot for the most part be sorted out among them" (Quine 1980b: viii). Internet sources must include a live URL. I must be able to trace the source.
9. Violations of academic integrity, like plagiarism, can and will lead to failing grades. Remember to acknowledge any assistance you have had on your paper, including assistance from the Writing Center. **The Hamilton College Honor Code will be enforced.**