

Course assignment for FIL 2207, Philosophy of Action, Autumn 2012.

The course grade will be based on a term paper of up to 12 pages (line space 1.5, standard font).

There will be no exam.

Essays must be submitted on *Fronter*, no later than November 26th, 2PM.

For complete instructions, see this web page:

<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/ifikk/FIL2207/h12/eksamen.xml>.

Please choose one of the essay questions below. In all cases, you are expected to bring in arguments from two or more of the authors on the list of course readings.

1. What, according to Anscombe, is the relation between acting intentionally and acting for a reason? Discuss her view critically.
2. What characterizes an event that is an action, according to Davidson? What problems is this account intended to solve? What challenges may be raised against Davidson's views?
3. Explain and assess Frankfurt's solution to what he terms "the problem of action."
4. What is weakness of the will, and why might this phenomenon be important for philosophical theories of action?
5. What is freedom of the will? Do persons have it? Is empirical science relevant to this question? If so, how?
6. Watson criticizes Frankfurt's conception of personhood and free agency. Assess the force Watson's argument, and of Frankfurt's reply. Wolf believes they are both striking the wrong approach. What do you think of her diagnosis?