

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society
Spring 2018
Sixth short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Wednesday, Dec 5th. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write an argumentative essay of one to two pages (roughly 400-600 words) on something related to Heather Douglas's book *Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal*. This is an argumentative paper. You must describe and defend some particular thesis. A good paper is clear, easy to read, and provides good arguments for its conclusion. But exactly what you write about is quite open ended.

Here are some sample issues to consider:

- 1) What is the value-free ideal? Is it really a good idea?
- 2) How should policy decisions involving complicated scientific knowledge be made in a democratic society like ours?
- 3) Is the science advisor model a good model?
- 4) Does the science advisor model depend on the value-free ideal?
- 5) Is it possible for scientists to do science without making any value judgments?
- 6) Does accepting or rejecting a scientific hypothesis necessarily require a value judgment?
- 7) Do scientists have any special moral responsibilities because they are scientists? Do they specifically avoid certain responsibilities because they are scientists?
- 8)... Many more essays are possible.