

Philosophy 190P

Response/Analysis Paper 1

Due Thurs., October 16th

Instructions

Note: this assignment is for students in Groups I and II *only*.

Please respond to the following question in approximately two pages (double spaced). (Needless to say this should be your own original work.)

In the opening paragraphs of *Ideas* §13 (pp. 26–7) Husserl makes a distinction between “specialization” and “de-formalization.” As an example he discusses (a) the relationship between the essence *triangle* and the genus *spatial shape* vs. (b) the relationship between the essence *triangle* and the form *essence*. Clearly both *essence* and *spatial shape* are much more universal (have a much wider range, apply to many more things) than *triangle*. Why is it supposedly clear, nevertheless, that relationships (a) and (b) are not the same *kind* of example, i.e. that the two kinds of “universality” involved are not the same? Relate this to Husserl’s statement that pure logic/formal ontology is about the empty form of a region in general, whereas a material ontology is confined to a single region.