

## Philosophy 190R

### Short Writing Assignment 6

Due Tues., Mar. 2.

#### Instructions

**Note:** this assignment is for students in Group III *only*.

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

In the first *Zusatz* to §163 (p. 241), Hegel says that slavery as an institution has disappeared in Europe because of “the principle of Christianity itself”: the master regards the slave as a “thing” (*Sache*) rather than as a person; whereas Christianity regards every human under the form of the universal, and “the principle of personhood is universality.” In the *Zusatz* to §147, on the other hand (p. 223), he says that “person” refers to the contingent and arbitrary contents (inclinations and interests) of immediate, finite subjectivity, as opposed to what really matters, the “matter” (again, *Sache*). Why might these two passages seem to contradict one another? Defend the following explanation: the master’s basic error, according to Hegel, is not to understand correctly the relationship between singular and universal; the result is that the slave’s personhood is *taken* to be something merely contingent and arbitrary, to which the universal is indifferent, and which is therefore not what matters (not the *Sache*). Christianity, in recognizing universality as “the principle of personhood,” gets the relation right.