Phil 465: Kant's Moral Philosophy and its Major Critics

1st **paper**: due Tuesday, March 10. (In contrast to the 1-pagers, I very much want a **hard copy** of this assignment.) Worth 15% of your final grade.

approximately 1200-1600 words **[Please give a** <u>word count</u>, and <u>number your</u> <u>pages.]</u>

Write a coherent, clearly expressed, and logically- and well-structured paper, in which you discuss the examples that Kant discusses on 58-60 (especially those that start at the top of p. 59). (You may use the list on the handout on Section One as a guide, although it does not contain all of the relevant variations on the examples that Kant discusses.)

- 1. *Explain* what point Kant is making with *each* of the examples.
- 2. *Explain* how that point relates to Kant's overall view of the worth of duty, inclination, and self-interest (or desire for one's happiness) as motives.
- 3. *Explain* whether there is some overall point Kant is making with all of these examples taken together.
- 4. *Finally,* discuss whether there is a relation between the point(s) Kant is making in this discussion, and his statement at the beginning of this chapter "Nothing can possibly be conceived in the world, or even out of it, which can be called good without qualification, except a good will" (p. 55), and his subsequent discussion of that point.
- 5. In your paper, show that you are aware that there may be more than one interpretation of what Kant is saying on important points either about specific examples, or larger points about duty, inclination, and moral worth.

Back up and argue for your answers to these questions, citing passages from Kant, and giving page numbers and paragraphs to indicate where the point you are making is drawn from or where a specific direct quote is taken. The form of reference should be that the paragraph number should be calculated not from full paragraphs, but simply from paragraphs that appear on a certain page (even if most of the paragraph is on the previous page).

The citation can go at the end of a sentence or paragraph. It need not be in a footnote or endnote.

For example, "Kant discusses a dealer who does not overcharge his customers." (59, par 1).

You may also refer to Lara Denis's discussions of the relevant sections in her "introduction" to the book, or to any other source you use. You must always give proper bibliographical citation for any such source.