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**Week Eight Assignment**

Here's the assignment for week eight, the brief version first then the fuller version second.

**Readings:**

[Second half](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schoprdings.html) of Schopenhauer’s The World as Will and Representation

**Study Questions:** [SQs for the second half of Schopenhauer](http://philosophycourse.info/SQsite/schopsq2.html)

**Mini-lectures:**

1. [A Philosophical map](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-phi-map.html)

Then the following lectures on Schopenhauer:

2. [Life is suffering because life is willing](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-suff.html)

3. [The world as Will](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-will.html)

4. [Aesthetic contemplation](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-aesth.html)

5. [Askesis](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-askesis.html)

6. [No will = No world](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-nothing.html)

**Discussion Questions:**

The discussion assignment this week is fourfold:

• Continue any discussions from last week about which you wish more clarification

• Discuss Schopenhauer’s concept of [aesthetic contemplation](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-aesth.html)

• Discuss Schopenhauer’s concept of [asceticism](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-schop-askesis.html)

• Offer your assessments of Schopenhauer’s worldview, both positives and negatives, and the reasons for them.

**Additional assignment piece for weeks eight to nine**

• Sometime this week or next, write a one- or two-paragraph response to any two of the research projects; your comments can include questions, comments on what you liked, or on what you would have liked to hear more about, etc. (Some of you may have already done this.)

• Respond briefly to at least one other (a third) research project and its accompanying student comment(s).

**Memorize and recite:** One passage from the second half of the Schopenhauer readings

**Due date:** 6pm Wed evening

**Now a few notes on a couple of these things:**

**Readings & SQs:**

You’ll be completing the reading of Schopenhauer this week, so if there are questions you want answered, or discussion matters you’d like to bring up, this will be your last week to do so. (See the Schopenhauer web page on the class website for details on the pages and sections you’ll be reading this week.)

A reminder from last week: your job as a reader is two-fold: 1st to understand what the author is saying and 2nd to make your own personal assessments about what that author is saying. Completing the first step first is important, and the second step second. The lectures this week are intended to help a little with step one, but your best success will come from spending lots of time with the book itself, and also from talking about it in class. The study questions should help too; and perhaps even reading your classmates’ answers to their study questions will help. You may also find it helpful to review some of last week’s Schopenhauer lectures.

**Mini-lectures:**

In the readings for last week, Schopenhauer attempted to lay out his metaphysic, i.e., his description of how the world really and fundamentally is. It’s not terribly pretty: the world is all illusion and it’s full of suffering. These are the fundamental world- and life-problems, for Schopenhauer. He does believe there are solutions, and that’s what he’ll be describing in your readings for this week.

**Discussion Qs:**

The discussion assignment this week is fourfold:

• Continue any discussions from last week about which you wish more clarification

• Discuss Schopenhauer’s concept of aesthetic contemplation

• Discuss Schopenhauer’s concept of asceticism

• And then discuss the following, but only toward the end of the week after you feel you’ve gotten some understanding of the basic motifs in Schopenhauer’s worldview:

Offer some of your own assessments of Schopenhauer’s worldview, both the positives and negatives (as you see them), and your reasons for those assessments.

Again this week I have not provided you with specific, already written-out discussion questions (except for those at the end of the last Schopenhauer lecture), but am instead expecting that you’ll find plenty of material in the lectures and in Schopenhauer to raise these questions for yourselves.

So our study of Schopenhauer continues this week. I hope you find yourself coming closer to an understanding of his basic themes.