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# clarification of assignments

Folks

This message is partly for those who may have arrived late, but others will want to take note too. I want to make clear what these various assignments mean, just so there are no accidental misunderstandings.

**1.** Assignments to "discuss" a topic in the classroom are assignments to participate in a discussion, and not just to drop in a quick response or two at the end of the week. This means some give and take among the participants, as many of you have already been doing. It also means trying to post your messages earlier in the week rather than later, so that others will have an opportunity to respond to what you have posted.

**2.** It also means (I think this is obvious) reading all of everyone else's contributions to the discussion, and then responding to some of them, as seems appropriate to you.

**3.** As noted on the class requirements page, this will probably entail logging into the classroom every day, or at least five or six days per week, and spending some time reading and responding in the classroom.

**4.** It will probably also mean reading the week's assignment early in the week -- as most of you have already been doing -- so that you'll have time to participate in the discussions early in the week. Waiting till the end of the week to read what the assignment is for that week would not be very productive.

**5.** The memorization assignments are to:

**a.** select a passage to memorize

**b.** recite it out loud, from memory, to another conscious human person

**c.** report to the class both what the quote was and to whom you recited it from memory. (Some folks are even telling us what the listener's reaction was, which is interesting too.)

**6.** If at all possible, please avoid using attachments to your classroom discussion messages. Attachments can make it more difficult for people to reply to your thoughts.

**7.** The class website (which many of you have already been using) is a resource for you to use in any way that best suits your purposes. There is a fair amount of material on it, and I'm open to hearing about any other links or materials you think I should consider adding (I'm still looking for a good Schopenhauer page out there, for example).

**8.** A reminder to be keeping records for the self-evaluations you'll be turning in this quarter. (See the [Self-Evaluation page](http://philosophycourse.info/businessite/sesite/phi-sehomepg.html) on the class website.) Your first self-evaluation will be due in a week or so. I'll be more specific about its due date in a few days. For now I just want to remind you about SEs and the importance of keeping records of your work.

Best wishes with it all.