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# Philosophy and Ethics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban

## Assignment Information

Course: Phil308 2009, Final Rorty Assignment

Lecturer: John Collier

Choose one of the following questions for your essay subject.

1. What is the objection of relativism that Rorty raises in Chapter 3 of *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*? How does Rorty respond to this objection? Do you think his response is satisfactory? Why?
2. What does Rorty mean by the contingency of the self? How does this relate to the contingency of liberal society? Does our contingency give us any reason to prefer a liberal society?
3. Why does Rorty think that ironists are addressing primarily the private realm? What problems does this present for the ironist in dealing with the public realm? How does Rorty try to resolve these problems? Do you think his resolutions, such as they are, are satisfactory. Explain your answers.

Length: about 2500 to 3500 words maximum; try to prune your essays to keep only what is relevant.

Due Date: 16 October 2009

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### Please note the following:

1. Extensions will only be granted in cases where there is (a) a good reason, and (b) reasonable effort has been made to contact the relevant lecturer BEFORE the hand in date.
2. Assignments should be typed or printed, and should not be emailed to the lecturer.
3. Assignments which do not include a full list of references for the works referred to, cited or quoted from in the assignment will NOT be accepted.
4. By handing in an assignment under your name and/or student number, you declare that, except for explicitly acknowledged quotations, the assignment is your own work, and is written in your own words. That means (1) that plagiarism will not be accepted under ANY circumstances, and will lead to disciplinary action, and (2) that assignments in which all or part of some document which you did not write yourself are paraphrased will be severely penalised.

Further information concerning essays and assignments, including a suggested system of referencing, can be found on the web pages of the Philosophy Programme. To access the information point your browser to [www.durbanphilosophy.nu.ac.za](http://www.durbanphilosophy.nu.ac.za), and follow the link 'For Current Students'.