

Written Assignment 2

- Either (a) Imagine that you are one of the clerics who refused to look through Galileo's telescope (see e.g. Kuhn p. 226). Defend your position. How might Galileo have responded?
- or (b) In 1814 Laplace famously wrote in reference to Newtonian mechanics:

An intelligence knowing all the forces in nature acting at a given instant, as well as the momentary positions of all things in the universe, would be able to comprehend in one single formula the motions of the largest bodies as well as the lightest atoms in the world, provided that its intellect were sufficiently powerful to subject all data to analysis; to it, nothing would be uncertain, the future as well as the past would be present to its eyes.

Does this idea present a problem for the notion of free will? Why (not)? (Incidentally, is Laplace technically correct [within the framework of Newtonian mechanics]? If not, what correction is needed?)

Please submit as a double-spaced Word document ('.docx' or '.doc') on Compass* by class time (2p) on **Thursday, 27 September**. Your submission should generally be 650-1000 words (about 2-3 pages, but go by word count). Please see 'Guidelines for Written Assignments' (website) and 'Rubric for homeworks' (Compass) before completing your assignment. Also feel free to discuss your response with the TAs (in person or via email) and/ or to come to discussion session (Thursdays, 4-5p).

**Given the recent difficulties with the Compass technology, keep an eye out for messages regarding revisions of submission method.*