

## Critical Inquiry Seminar

### *Manifest versus Scientific Image*

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### **Writing Assignment Due Thursday, Oct. 21**

As usual, please **email** me your paper (in Word format) sometime *before* class.

In roughly **three pages**, present and critically discuss Descartes's version of the ontological argument. (We are concentrating on Descartes's formulation of the argument because it is more compact; you should be able to translate any objection you have to St. Anselm's version to Descartes's.)

Remember your first reaction to the argument: it sounds fishy, and it seems like it goes by too fast. Try to convey in your presentation why the argument is compelling. (Recall step 5 from the handout on St. Anselm's version.)

If you only clearly present Descartes's argument and one of the objections we reviewed in class, that is good, but the best you can receive is an A-. (One exception: if you *presented* your objection to the class.)

To get an A, you'll want to advance the debate past what we discussed in class. Do you have another objection you'd like to develop? Do you think there's a way for the defender of the ontological argument to reply to one of the objections we discussed? (Don't feel like this has to be your final word on the debate. You've made progress if you show that one objection doesn't work, even if you think there may still be other good objections.) Is there an objection that was mentioned in class but never discussed that you think can be developed? Do you think you can show that one of the objections we discussed is decisive? Is there an important difference between Descartes's version and St. Anselm's version? And so on.

Please consult the web handout on rewriting a paper, as well as guidelines from previous assignments.