From the syllabus:

The most substantial piece of writing will be a research paper on a topic in the philosophy of mind. You will be responsible for selecting the topic. The paper should be no more than 3000 words, inclusive of notes and references. It will be a research paper, and I will require you to use at least five recent sources (i.e., within the last two years). This will mean that you should spend time exploring current discussions of your topic. You will submit two drafts of this essay to me for evaluation. The first draft must be submitted by email to me as a Word attachment by class time on November 4 and the final draft is due as a Word attachment by 5 pm on Thursday, December 11. IMPORTANT: the first paper you submit should not be your first and roughest draft. I would encourage you to think "paper topic" from the get go in this class. I am happy to look at and comment on rough notes, outlines, or early drafts prior to November 4. Late research papers will be docked a letter grade for each class period they are late, unless you contact me on or before November 3 and give me a compelling reason for your late submission.

A few additional points:

- **Assignment:** By 10/23, I need you to email me a 250-word abstract of your long paper. Abstracts should clearly tell me (a) what the topic is, (b) what claim you will defend in your paper, and (c) how you plan to defend it.

- I am open to various structures for this paper (e.g., standard essay, dialogue), but if you plan to do something different from a standard intro-body-conclusion research paper, please run the idea by me first.

- If you have difficulty finding five sources in the last two years, please let me know and we can work around it.

- The paper should include a literature review component and an original argument component. This is your chance to express your philosophical voice, and I want you to develop an argument for a view that you find attractive.

- If you have difficulty locating a topic, please let me know.