

LANGARA COLLEGE

**Philosophy 1101: Introduction to Philosophy – Sec. 003**

## **Writing assignment #1**

In class on September 29, 2023

*In class, **one** of the questions below will be selected at random for students to answer, in up to 200 words.*

1. At the start of the *Meditations*, Descartes describes his existing belief system as riddled with error, and he resolves to demolish it and build a new one. Briefly summarise the key steps in this process of demolition and reconstruction.
2. Descartes initially doubts the reliability of his senses, but regards things known by reason, the ‘natural light’, as beyond doubt. How then does Descartes respond to the possibility that some powerful being (e.g. an evil God) might make him “clearly and distinctly” perceive something that is false? (Go to the *Meditations* here, not just my lecture slides, as I only covered one of his two responses.)
3. Descartes needs a reason to trust his faculty of judgment, but he also needs to explain how he sometimes makes cognitive mistakes. Summarise how Descartes addresses these two problems.