

## PROMPT

### Ethics paper: Camus & Daoud

Length: +/- 1000 words

Daoud's novel, *The Meursault Investigation* (2014), is a retelling and critique of Camus' novel, *The Stranger* (1942). Daoud's book is written from the vantage of a time and a world seventy years after that of Camus. Camus' work comes from the vantage of the French émigré (*pied-noir*) community in Algeria, while Daoud's writing comes from the perspective of an Arab living in independent contemporary Algeria. The one emerges from the aftermath of World War II, while the other has been influenced by postcolonial values. Each has a world view, a sense of the crisis of day, a morality with its own values. Daoud believes that his world clashes with that of Camus, that Camus does not understand the meaning of what happened in the sun at the beach on that fateful day, that Camus has written a defective, even dangerous account of the death of the Arab.

For this paper, your task is to demonstrate and analyze the clash or convergence of worldviews and values in the two novels. Consider questions such as these:

- What do the two authors take as absolutes?
- What are their fundamental values?
- What ought a human to do?
- How do Camus and Daoud differ in values?
- What is Daoud's criticism of Camus' account?
- What would Camus think of Daoud's criticism?
- How would Camus defend himself against Daoud's criticism?

*(You do not need to examine or answer all these questions, but should consider them starting points.)*

In a thesis-driven essay of about 1000 words, write an analysis of the clash of values between the two texts. Your analysis should draw on moral and ethical theories that we have discussed in [REDACTED]. How do these theories help readers understand what the chief values that shape actions and which actions are of high value in the novels?

#### ***Ethical Reasoning in Context Requirement (ERC)***

**Description:** Students develop an understanding of a range of ethical perspectives and the contrasts among them within a scholarly field (e.g., history, biology, computer science, philosophy) or a domain of inquiry (e.g., politics, human development, the environment, love and friendship). Students will apply those perspectives to relevant questions and controversies and critically examine their assumptions and limitations.

#### **Intended Learning Outcomes — Students will:**

1. Evaluate a range of ethical perspectives.
2. Apply these ethical perspectives to specific questions.
3. Identify or critically evaluate their own ethical views.