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Prospectus for final paper

Topic:

For my paper I would again like to tackle the concept of perfection. Throughout this class we have discussed many different definitions and the differing outcomes of those definitions on Leibniz's philosophy. Perfection is arguably the backbone of all of Leibniz's philosophy. I would like to take the stance that all of Leibniz's definitions fall into a single overarching definition that is presented by Gregory Brown. Perfection is that which follows harmony (or perfection is harmony). I plan to fit all other definitions and ideals of perfection into this definition. By making all of these definitions coincide I will be better able to understand the concepts of God and the best possible world. With this justification I will explain why it is justifiable that God's view and our views are fundamentally different. This will be useful in discussing apparent good and evil as well as apparent free will and apparent knowledge (perception and apperception play a role in this section).

Method:

I will begin by taking apart and discussing Brown's definition and all it entails. First I will discuss pre-established harmony and how it is described in Leibniz's philosophy. This will be found in the *Principles of Nature and Grace, Based On Reason*. Then I will then take the sections of Leibniz's text and discuss how each of the seemingly different definitions are supportive of the perfection is harmony theory. Starting with *On Contingency (1686)*(perfection is wisdom) and moving to the *Discourse on Metaphysics (1686)* sections: 1(God is an absolutely perfect being/perfection has no highest degree),3(lesser good is relatively evil),4(it is

for him to know the proper hour and place for letting good designs succeed),5(simplicity and richness),7(permits such evil-- apparent bad),8(notions already created/simple),14(created substance depends on God/our judgments are flawed--based on appearances--nothing can happen to us except through appearances),15(pre-established harmony),19 (the discussion of God making the world for something other than us),36 (God is most perfect). Also drawing from the Monadology and his Letters To and From Wolff. Then I will connect these ideas and use some examples created in class to discuss how Leibniz was correct with each one of his definitions of perfection. Finally, I will wrap up my discussion by talking about how Brown's definition is accurate with Leibniz's view and how that influences good, evil and knowledge.