

Guidelines for the First Paper

The first draft is due Wednesday, February 26th.

The second draft is due Wednesday, March 5th.

Papers should be roughly five pages long, and should be submitted *both* as a hard copy and an e-mail attachment in Word format.

If you want to choose a topic other than those suggested below, please send your proposed topic to me via e-mail by Friday.

Suggested topics

1. Summarize Locke's various arguments against absolute monarchy in his *Second Treatise of Government*. For each argument, carefully explain the reasoning he uses.
2. Explain Locke's conception of natural law as expressed in his *Second Treatise of Government*. According to him, how can natural law be discerned? What are the natural laws that he asserts, and what bearing do they have on political and economic questions?
3. In his *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, what is Rousseau's purpose in describing man in the state of nature? How does this allow Rousseau to analyze the origins of social inequality?
4. Retrace Rousseau's account of the (roughly sequential) development of human civilization in his *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. According to Rousseau, what benefits and costs to humanity have resulted from these changes?
5. Contrast the views of property expressed in Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* and Rousseau's *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. Focus on the origin of property rights, the legitimacy of property rights, and their consequences for society.
6. How might the insights of Locke in his *Second Treatise of Government* and Rousseau in his *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* contribute to the design of a political or economic system? On what points might the two authors be in agreement, and on what points might they be in conflict?