

Guidelines for the Third Paper

The final draft is due Monday, May 26th.

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

If you want to choose a topic other than those suggested below, please send your proposed alternative to me via e-mail as soon as possible.

Suggested topics

1. Describe what you personally got from reading the works of each author on our Spring FYSem syllabus. That is, what have you learned from each of them? How has your view of the world changed as a result of the course? The explanations can be briefer for authors you found less interesting, and more detailed for those who affected you more.
2. Argue the value of Georg Büchner's *Woyzeck*. Aim to convince your reader that this play deserves to find a wide audience, e.g. on the grounds that it is powerful, important, edifying, useful, beautiful, revolutionary, challenging, etc.
3. Explain some of the diagnoses of psychological or spiritual harms caused by capitalism that Karl Marx delivers in *Estranged Labor* and *Private Property and Communism*. For each of these, try to describe a practical solution of your own that might mitigate or cure the identified social illness.
4. Describe parallels between Friedrich Nietzsche's thought as expressed in *On the Genealogy of Morality* and/or *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* and your own psychological development, efforts toward self-realization, etc.
5. Combining your own ideas with Sigmund Freud's analysis in *Civilization and Its Discontents*, discuss the limits to human happiness and some of the possible strategies we may use to cope with these limits.
6. What does Hannah Arendt add to our understanding of humanity in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*? That is, what are the particularly novel, counterintuitive, revelatory, or surprising contributions of this work?