

## Guidelines for the First Paper

The first draft is due Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The second draft is due Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

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 topic to me via e-mail by Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Suggested topics

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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.
4. Propose and analyze a proposed political system in light of the insights expressed by Lock (in his *Second Treatise of Government*), Rousseau (in his *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*), Paine (in *Agrarian Justice*), and George (in *The Single Tax: What It Is and Why We Urge It*). For each feature of the system you propose, explain whether each of the four thinkers would support it or oppose it, and why.