

Guidelines for the Second Paper

The first draft is due Tuesday, April 14th.

The second draft is due two weeks after you receive comments from me.

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 as soon as possible.

Suggested topics

1. Discuss the moral judgments that Olaudah Equiano expresses in his *Interesting Narrative*. What does he consider to be morally right, and what does he consider to be morally wrong? What are the bases for these judgments? Does Equiano's morality change or evolve during the course of the *Narrative*?
2. How does Mary Wollstonecraft portray the women of her time in *Vindication of the Rights of Women*? In her view, what is their intellectual status? What kinds of power do they exercise? What causes women to be the way they are, and what remedies does she propose?
3. In his *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals*, Immanuel Kant describes the fundamental ideas of a new moral system and argues that it is superior to alternative systems. Construct a moral system of your own (noting outside influences if you have some, but taking primary responsibility yourself), and try to construct an argument in favor of this system, as Kant does. Describe the essential elements of Kant's system, and contrast them with yours.
4. Mary Shelley was Mary Wollstonecraft's daughter, and was born as Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin just a few days before her mother's death. In what ways might Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* be said to contain echoes of or responses to Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*?
5. 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.