

## Guidelines for the First Paper

The first draft is due Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please e-mail these to both me and Niall Murphy, our writing fellow. Our e-mail addresses are armytage@bard.edu and nmo730@bard.edu

Please schedule a time with Niall to meet and go over your essay. This is a requirement.

The second draft is due Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. I'll give comments on your second drafts in Word. The third draft is due Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Papers should be roughly 4-5 pages long (with no more than 1.5 multiple spacing), and should be submitted as an e-mail attachment in Word format. Please label the different sections of your essays (e.g. Introduction, Conclusion, etc.) with headings in bold type.

### 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 Locke (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.
5. 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? How does Equiano's morality change or evolve during the course of the *Narrative*?