Prompt for Paper 1 (Ungraded)

Write a two-page paper on one of the following themes.

In writing your essay, pay close attention to the information on pp. 4 and 8-12 of the *Humanities Program Writing Handbook*. Turn in your essay at the end of lecture on Thursday, January 18.

The purpose of this paper is to introduce you to the process of writing a thesis-based paper. In such papers, you state a thesis and then construct an argument based on the texts we are reading to show that the thesis is tenable. You do not have to prove that your thesis is true and all other possible theses on the topic are false. Rather, you need to show that your thesis rests on solid evidence—it is arguably right.

Some advice:

- **Start the project early.** Good, clear writing is a product of revision. No one writes a good first draft. So, give yourself time to write a first draft, and then revise it at least once and preferably twice.

- **Start off writing simple sentences.** You can connect such sentences into complex and compound sentences when you revise.

- **Proofread your final draft.** If you don’t read your work, why should anyone else? Sloppy work full of typos will irritate your reader (and grader), which is not good. In addition, the paper is a piece of you. Show us your best self.

- **Take the TA’s comments seriously and meet with him or her if you don’t understand them.** This paper is an opportunity to learn about writing without cost. Make the most of the opportunity.

The themes:

1. Based on your reading of Genesis, agree or disagree with the following statement:

   When Yahweh favored Abel over Cain, he showed that the order of the world does not consist in its natural order--in this case the birth order of the two men--but in its moral order.

2. Based on your reading of Genesis, agree or disagree with the following statement:

   The most important deduction one can draw from the discussion between God and Abraham about the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah is that God has power over the world.