Writing Assignment No. 3

Write a brief essay (four to five pages) on one of the following topics.

1. According to the Psalms that we have read, how can people tell whether they are acting rightly or not?

2. “1 and 2 Samuel, and the first three chapters of 1 Kings: In these texts, women are a lot smarter than men.” Agree or disagree with that statement. To do so, you’ll need to specify what you mean by “smart”—intelligent, intellectual, clever, cunning, mentally resourceful, or whatever else you see in the texts. You will also need to limit the number of men and women you consider, and the number of episodes; you can’t discuss everything. So you’ll need to think about which people or episodes are most important to your argument, and to basic fairness. You shouldn’t just seize on some dumb move by person X and contrast it with some brilliant move by person Y, without noticing whether those may be isolated or unrepresentative moves.

3. “As king, David makes many mistakes, but he does as well as one could reasonably expect him to do.” Agree or disagree with this statement.

4. “In Isaiah, God demands a great deal more from people than God demanded in Genesis or Exodus.” Agree or disagree with this statement. In discussing it, use the Bible chapters assigned. Discuss it with respect either to Genesis or to Exodus, not to both. Make sure that you devote at least one-half of the paper to Isaiah.

Turn in your essay at the end of lecture on Friday, February 16. At the same time, you need to send an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com.

In writing your essay, play close attention to pp. 36-38 and 56-83 (about sentence structure, commas, and semicolons) of the Humanities Handbook, as well as to our old friend, pp. 8-12.

This is a good opportunity to remind everyone that if you use other people’s words as if they were your own you are committing academic dishonesty, which at UCSD is severely punished. It is also very easy to discover.