

**Humanities 5—Lecture A**  
**Spring 2017**

**Essay 1: Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche**

Essays are due at the end of lecture on **Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. The essay should be a minimum of 5 full pages in length (no more than 7) in the Humanities format\* and a counterargument is required. Evidence for your essay must be based only on the assigned texts.

Respond to one of the following prompts:

1. According to Marx, what is wrong with modern industrial capitalist society, as he knows it, and what is the aim of Communism? What would Mill think about these two things? Would he agree or disagree with Marx? Why? Write a thesis-based essay on what Mill would think about both the aim of Communism and the problems of society as proposed by Marx.
2. Do Mill and Nietzsche think about individual freedom in the same way? Why does Nietzsche criticize utilitarianism in general, and Mill in particular? Is Nietzsche right about the difference between him and Mill or are they more similar than Nietzsche recognizes? Write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast Mill and Nietzsche on individual freedom.
3. Our goal in Humanities has always been about hearing what you have to say. Let's put this to the test, shall we? Using two of the three following authors—Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche—write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast your two authors' views on a theme of your choice.

Requirements for writing on #3:

- a. You must develop your own prompt on a specific debatable issue. You must attach your proposed prompt to your essay when you submit it.
- b. You must receive approval for your topic from your TA in advance. Without prior approval, you will not be allowed to write on this prompt. Approval must be received by Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Submit a paper copy of your essay to your TA in a plain manila folder with your name on it. Include all your previous Humanities papers in the folder. Before submitting a paper copy in lecture, you must submit an electronic copy to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) for text-similarity review. Information about that will be distributed and discussed in section by your TA.

**Late essays.** One day late is -10% (one letter grade). Two days late, -20% (two letter grades). Papers will not be accepted after two days.

\*All handouts are available online (<http://revelle.ucsd.edu/humanities/writing-info/index.html>)

Note: In the introductory paragraph of a “compare *or* contrast essay,” you must do the following: (1) Introduce the theme, (2) Establish the authors' views on the given theme, and (3) Assert your own argument about the differences OR the similarities between the two texts or authors on the given theme.