Humanities 5  
Zroka—Spring 2018

Writing Assignment No. 1

Essays are due at the beginning of lecture on Friday, May 4th. 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. Reminder: Do not use outside sources in a Humanities essay. The argument should be your own, and the only material used should be the assigned readings.

1. Would the application of Mill’s conception of liberty solve the problems that Marx and Engels identified in modern society?

   In crafting your response, you may pay particular attention to Mill’s concept of the “tyranny of the majority” and Marx’s concept of alienation.

2. In The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels write, “for exploitation, veiled by religious and political illusions, [the bourgeoisie] has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation” (p.16). How is Marx and Engels’s view of exploitation similar to Conrad’s view, as presented in Heart of Darkness?

   In crafting your response, you may consider how the behavior of Kurtz and Marlow changes according to their postings and their location.

3. In the introduction to On Liberty, Mill writes, “Despotism is a legitimate mode of government in dealing with barbarians, provided the end be their improvement, and the means justified by actually effecting that end” (p.8). How might Mill’s theory of liberty be used to justify the Belgian imperialist agenda in the Congo Free State, as presented in Conrad’s Heart of Darkness?

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 at lecture, you must submit an electronic copy to www.turnitin.com for textual 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 is -20% (two letter grades). Papers will not be accepted after two days.

*Handouts are available in the Humanities Custom Handbook and online at http://revelle.ucsd.edu/humanities/resources/writing-resources.html