Paper 5 Prompt

Formal requirements:
A. 700-1100 words (3 to 5 pages).
B. Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, stapled.
C. You may use the first person (I) when writing about a personal example or experience.
D. You may **NOT** use the second person (you).
E. You must follow essay outline discussed in class.
F. You must quote from at least one of the *Reading the World* selections from the Government & Society unit.
G. You must show a in-depth understanding of the text from which you quote.

Choose from one of the three following options.

1. Machiavelli writes that politicians must “know how to do wrong, and to make use of it or not according to necessity.” Contrastingly, King writes: “it is wrong to use immoral means to attain moral ends” (King 216). In other words, the argument is about whether or not the end can justify the means. **Support either King’s or Machiavelli’s assertion, or synthesize the two.** If you support one side, include a paragraph refuting the opposing viewpoint. If you synthesize, be sure to adequately set up the dialectic in your introduction: explain the thesis, the antithesis, and show how it leads into your synthesis (this synthesis will be your thesis for the paper).

2. Desmond Tutu’s post-apartheid system of criminal prosecution reflected his personal belief in the power of forgiveness. Along the same lines, King uses his belief in “moral” or “God’s law” to influence his politics. **Consider how your own personal beliefs influence your political beliefs.** Your paper would likely take the following form: in the introduction, lay out your personal beliefs (which can be about religion, or society, or government, or human nature); in your first two body paragraphs, take on one subject—immigration or foreign policy, for instance—and show how your personal belief system provides a foundation for your political belief; then in your final body paragraph, compare the way your personal views inform your politics to King’s or Tutu’s personal beliefs inform their politics. Explore your views thoughtfully; do not simply write, “I believe abortion is wrong and therefore I believe abortion should be outlawed.” Instead, look for the underlying foundations.

Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>No class—Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td><strong>Typed draft due; peer review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Thesis/Plan due; read BH 191-195</td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td><strong>Final draft due</strong></td>
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Paper #5: The Power of Words

- On November 19, you will bring to class a clearly focused thesis statement and outline for paper #5.
- The typed draft (500-750 words), due on peer review day (November 26), should be an organized, well-developed essay.
- The final essay (750 words), revised with the help of feedback received from your peer reviews, will be due on November 28.

For paper #5, you will write a focused, organized, and developed essay over one of the following topics:

1. Drawing on Achebe's belief that myths have linguistic properties, examine a myth, folktale, or other common story that is important to your cultural heritage. **What values does this narrative communicate?** Think about stories you heard as a child. Example: Disney movies have instilled the desire for a “happily ever after” ending.

2. Write an essay in which you **analyze the connection between language and violence.** Think of ways that language itself can be made a violent weapon or a tool for oppression, as Morrison suggests that it can be on pg. 541. Examples: Sexist, racist, or theistic language, etc.

3. One of Anzaldúa’s key points is that people employ different “languages” within their different cultures and subcultures. **Discuss how a group that you belong to (racial, national, religious, occupational, etc.) uses a unique language.** Questions to consider: What is this unique language’s purpose? Does it give you a sense of belonging and inclusion? Or does it make you an outsider?

This paper should meet the following additional requirements:
- The paper should contain an introduction that states a clear thesis or main argument.
- The paper should have 2-4 body paragraphs that include concrete illustrations.
- Your concrete illustrations should include personal experiences and specific examples from our readings or class discussions.
- You may use first person (I) if you are writing about a personal example or experience.
- **Do not use second person (you).**
Anne Shepherd  
English 1310.023 and 1310.031

Paper #5: Wealth, Poverty, and Social Class

1. Argue either for or against Garrett Hardin’s position on one of the following topics: (1) the establishment of a world food bank; (2) immigration; (3) government-enacted barriers to population growth. Support your thesis with illustrations drawn from your own knowledge and experience. For instance: based on your own observations of human nature, do you think barriers to population growth would yield positive or negative results?

2. As we discussed in class, every image has a thesis. Study either Eugène Delacroix’s Liberty Leading the People, Dorothea Lange’s Migrant Mother, or an image I have posted on TRACS, and write an essay in which you answer the following questions: what is the image’s thesis? How does it present this thesis? For your illustrations, you should cite the specific aspects of the image that argue the “points” of the image’s thesis. (Hint: as a possible thesis generator for this essay, you might consider the following question: what does the image argue should be done about the gap between the rich and the poor?)

Note: In this essay, it will be especially important to answer the “so what?” question in your conclusion. In other words, once you’ve proven the image is arguing a particular thesis, use your conclusion to tell us what we should do in response to this argument or why this image’s argument should even matter to us.

Format requirements: 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins (see BH 739 for an example of MLA format)