SCLA 101: Transformative Texts

Critical Thinking and Communication I: Antiquity to Modernity  
Having Enough

**Paper 1**

**Due Date:** To be turned in on Brightspace on **Sunday February 5th at 10pm.**

**Assignment:**

Using **one** of the following themes as it appears in **one** of the following texts, write a 3-page paper based on our readings and discussion in which you analyze what to your mind is the most compelling case for why we should not act in our own self-interest. Your paper should build on our readings and class discussion, and develop an argument that addresses 1) how the author’s use of that theme builds an argument against self-interest theory and 2) how the author employs rhetorical or literary techniques in the text to develop that argument. You may also use a theme of your choosing, as long as it is checked with me ahead of time.

Themes:

* Disease/injury
* Impermanence
* Non-attachment
* Justice
* Wealth inequality

Texts:

* *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*
* *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*
* Plato’s *Republic*

Note that the first paper, due February 5th, will also involve a revision, due **Sunday**, **February 12th** so that you can carefully revise your writing before the paper receives a grade. The reasoning behind the revision is that not everyone will be able to craft a perfect essay the first time around. However, as this course is writing-centric, and there will be ample time to write a paper whose length is relatively short, the standards for writing quality will be high. Though it will not officially be graded, treat the February 5thdeadline as if it were a final draft, and come by office hours with questions, outlines, writing plans, etc. Use the guidelines below for format and learning outcomes, and make use of the Writing Guide on the Brightspace (Content   
-> Writing Guide and Research Paper Tips) for basic questions about grammar and style.

**Format:** Word document, Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, 3 pages, Microsoft Word or PDF format. Have a single-spaced heading in the top left corner with name, instructor (Professor Sokolsky-Tifft), date, and course title, each on a separate line. Page number should be in the footer, in the center of the page. In this class we will use the Chicago Style for citation: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>. Future papers with multiple works will require a bibliography, but for now just be sure to quote your sources cleanly and grammatically.

SCLA 101 LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Written Communication**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Write with clarity, coherence, and concision in a variety of genres, 5,000-11,000 words of polished writing (or 12,000-18,000 words, including drafts).
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of rhetorical situations and choices for a variety of audiences and contexts.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking about writing through reading, analysis, discussion, composing and revising texts in a range of genres.
4. Apply a clear understanding of the process of writing and successfully organize, present, and communicate meaning to fellow readers.
5. Identify, analyze, and evaluate the claims of a variety of sources.
6. Engage critically with transformative texts, drawing on multiple perspectives including the individual, the historical, and the contemporary.

**Information Literacy**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Conduct research, engaging search strategies and locating the relevant sources.
2. Determine the quantity of information needed, including supplemental sources, in order to satisfy a well-designed research question.
3. Demonstrate the ability to summarize, synthesize, quote, and document sources, using an appropriate documentation style.
4. Critically evaluate information for its quality, accuracy, bias, authority, and relevance.
5. Display an understanding of the historical, ethical, and cultural contexts of both a research question and the sources used to answer it.
6. Express a clear understanding of the issues of intellectual property (such as fair use, plagiarism, and copyright)

**Grade Scale:**

Excellent: A+ (97-100), A (94-96), A- (90-93)

Above Average: B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83)

Average: C+ (77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73)

Below Average: D+ (67-69), D (64-66), D- (60-63)

Failing: Below 60

Feel free to consult with me at any time about your work and standing in the course, or any other questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.