**CORE106-10 Fall 2015**

**September 14, 2015 (Updated)**

**Prompt for Paper #1: Due September 23.**

We discussed Socrates’s dilemma posed to Euthyphro:

**“Is something pious because it is God-loved, or is it God-loved because it is pious.”**

We linked this idea to the notion that our understanding of truth, morality, and core principles may emerge from either of two things:

**Laws of Nature**: There are genuine, unchanging, and immutable principles of the world that determine social outcomes.

OR

**Social construction**. There are human-made and society-made ways of understanding the world that either solves a tangible problem or preserves a social hierarchy.

**Write a five-page essay that applies these competing ways of understanding the world and explain Socrates’s and Virginia Woolf’s reckoning of creativity, wisdom, and the conditions that make an “examined life” possible.**

Your essay should incorporate both essays from Plato (Euthyphro and the Apology) and Woolf.

You essay could consider these questions to help its development:

* How do Socrates and Woolf challenge the prevailing understanding of truth in their respective worlds?
* Are they proposing to simply exchange one set of immutable laws for another? Are they challenging the very notion of a law of nature? Or some of both?
* How do they link their own consciousness and personal experience to their understanding of the world around them?

Your paper should be double spaced, use 12-point font, and must not exceed six pages. The Harris and Kunka *Writer’s FAQs* text describes the MLA citation method which you should use to provide citations in your work. You should use endnotes rather than footnotes if needed. Keep in mind you are not writing a research paper. I will particular attention to the quality and completeness of your citations in the readings. **Take care to support your claims about the readings with evidence.** Grammar and craftsmanship are important, as is the quality of your composition.