

The first paper

TUT 100-17 – Exploring the Magical World of ~~calvin and~~ hobbes – Fall 2016

Here are **three options** for prompts for your first paper. My intention in providing options is to have as many of you as possible feel comfortable with your task. Though I remind you that your paper is not graded, so you might also choose an option that you think of as a little more challenging to push your boundaries a bit.

Option 1: In class we have touched on the question of how to best characterize Hobbes in relation to Calvin. We dichotomize, and perhaps overly simplify, this question when we ask “Are Calvin and Hobbes parts of a single character or two separate characters?” Write a paper that takes a stance on these questions and present an argument in support of your stance.

Option 2: Write a critical review of some aspect of the McGavran essay structured in the following way. Part one should be a one hundred fifty-word (or so) summary of the aspect of McGavran’s essay you wish to comment on. Do not inject any of your own ideas or opinions in this part. Part two should identify what you consider the strengths and/or weaknesses of McGavran’s views.

Option 3: Write a paper that describes a feature of the strips you find interesting/revealing/strange and then argue for a way to understand that feature. I expect this topic would emerge from your annotations of the readings we have done and/or your in-class freewrites. If, after the thesis poster session, you intend to pursue this option please meet with me so I can help you pin down the focus.

Here are the details of our process for this assignment:

- In class on **Tuesday, Sept. 6th** we will do several rounds of what I call a “**thesis poster session**”. Each of you will bring two draft theses to class that day to show to the rest of us in a poster session format. One of your theses should be for either prompt one or two and the other should be for prompt three.
- A **smooth draft** of your paper is **due by 9 PM Sunday, Sept. 11th**. You will email your paper to Paul, Mollie Jo, and two or three assigned classmates.
- Your paper should be **at least two pages but not more than three pages** long. For this assignment I ask you **not to write a conclusion** paragraph. Your paper will end abruptly, that’s okay. Your intended **audience** for this paper is your classmates. As you make choices about level of detail think what it is reasonable to assume your classmates know.
- We will spend our Tuesday, Sept. 13th class doing a **peer review exercise**. You will read two or three of your classmates papers and prepare some peer review comments. Two or three of them will read and comment on your paper.
- I expect you to make some revisions based on the peer review and maybe other feedback you get and the **final draft** of your paper is due by email to Mollie Jo and me by **5 PM Friday, Sept. 16th**. I will hold individual meetings with you to provide feedback the following week.