

PRECEPTORIAL IDS. 1000B.19 – SPRING 2008

Freshman Essay Dr. Francis Brancaleone

The overarching topic for this semester and the Preceptorial in general is the “Search for a Good World.” Given, that this is a noble pursuit, it remains for most of us an elusive but consistently, attractive aim. However, I think that most of us would like to feel capable of making some slight contribution to this lofty goal. Thinking along those lines, we define a personal moral perspective and measure our own and others’ actions by the rules of behavior we have established.

Where might we find the tools to implement this ideal? Is it possible? Should we even try? Is it to be found in the emotion of the moment? Psychological comfort? Social status?

Does a model exist? In a country (a so-called Utopia), a political system, a social structure, a religion, a community? Is education the answer? Family? Love? Money? Personal fulfillment in attaining power, a better job? A combination of any of the above?

In formulating a response to these questions include reference and/or quotations with commentary from at least six of the texts covered in class (three from each semester if you wish) – more if you find they help your argument. Now aren’t you sorry you did not read all of them? It is not too late.

As you begin to select the readings that were most meaningful to you, begin to develop a thesis statement that stakes out your position. Build an outline and start to write.

No matter what your past experience, it will be a better paper if you write it in sections rather than sit down and blast through it all in one sitting. Edit it, read it over and edit it again and again.

Important Due Dates:

February 12, 2008, a first installment (thesis statement, outline and about three pages);
March 4, 2008, a first draft (7-8 pages);
April 1, 2008, the first complete draft;
April 22, 2008, first revision;
April 29, 2008, final revision.

This timeline will allow for meaningful rewrites as this is the only extended paper this semester and will become a part of your portfolio. .

Dimensions: The paper is to be a minimum of twelve pages long (nothing less will do), typed and double spaced (nothing more will do) with a one-page bibliography attached (page thirteen).

GENERAL CHECKLIST:

Does the paper have a clearly discernible introduction, body and conclusion?

Is it divided into distinct paragraphs, with topic sentences?

Does the paper proceed by means of thoughtful development of its ideas to a logical conclusion?