

Second Assignment: Topics

Guidelines

1. This paper has two parts. Analyze *one* quotation from Part One, and answer *one* question from Part Two. Your answer to Part One should be approximately two pages long, and will count for 50% of your grade; your answer to Part Two should be approximately two pages long, and will count for 50% of your grade. Your completed examination should be four pages (approximately 1,200 words) long.
2. Papers are due on Tuesday, 19 May 2015. Late papers will be penalized.
3. This is not a research paper. Use of secondary sources is neither expected nor encouraged. You are free to discuss your ideas with each other and with your instructors; the paper you submit, however, should reflect your own work. Please review the handout "Paper Writing Guidelines" before beginning this assignment.

Part One

Analyze *one* of these quotations. What does the passage mean? Is it coherent? How does it contribute to the argument of the text as a whole? How does it fit into the broader context of American political thought in its era? (For more detailed directions, see the handout "Paper Writing Guidelines.")

1. "A free man in a free democracy has no duty whatever toward other men of the same rank and standing, except respect, courtesy, and good will."
William Graham Sumner, *What The Social Classes Owe To Each Other*
2. "The leisure class stands at the head of the social structure in point of reputability; and its manner of life and its standards of worth therefore afford the norm of reputability for the community. The observance of these standards, in some degree of approximation, becomes incumbent upon all classes lower in the scale."
Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

Part Two

Answer *one* of the following questions.

3. "Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful. The law regards man as man, and takes no account of his surroundings or of his color when his civil rights as guaranteed by the supreme law of the land are involved."
Justice Harlan, *Plessy v Ferguson*
Imagine you are W.E.B. DuBois. In the weekly packet of mail from Washington you receive a copy of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Write a critical review and response, focusing on Harlan's dissent. What, from DuBois's point of view, are the strengths and weaknesses of Harlan's arguments? Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."
Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address"
Imagine you are W.E.B. DuBois. In the weekly packet of mail you receive a copy of Washington's "Atlanta Exposition Address." Write a critical review and response. What, from DuBois's point of view, are the strengths and weaknesses of Washington's arguments? Do you agree? Why or why not?