

QUIZ ONE

Every other quiz in this course will focus on course content. The majority of the quiz grade will be determined by how successfully you demonstrate your mastery of the material presented in the readings and the video-lectures. This first quiz, however, is a little different. Here I am asking you to honestly reflect on yourself as a thinker. The grade on this quiz will be determined by how sincere and self-reflective your little essay is.

I am asking for a short – no more than three double-spaced pages – essay that addresses the following three questions.

1. How much of your thinking about important issues – political, moral, religious *et cetera* – do you believe is determined by your individual background? Your age, sex, race, family political leanings, and the like?
2. To the degree that at least some of your thinking about these kinds of issues is partially determined by these cultural facts about yourself, do you believe that you can “transcend” them and reach a more “objective” evaluation of the way things “really are?” How might you do this?
3. What are ***your*** major sources of information about politics, moral controversies, and these sorts of things?

I fully expect the grades on this first quiz to be quite high. All that you need to do to receive full credit is to take just a little time to truly reflect on these questions.