

## Second Paper Topics

Write a paper no longer than 1800 words, about 5-6 pages, on one of the topics below. Please turn your paper in by 4 pm on Thursday, May 1. You may submit your paper either electronically, through Sakai or email, or by putting a physical copy in my box in Pearsons 208. Please write down when your paper was submitted, especially if it is late. Thank you and good luck!

1. John Locke believed in natural property rights while Thomas Hobbes did not. Explain each author's position: what he believed and why. Then offer your evaluation: which one of them has the better position? Be sure to take into account the strongest objection that the other author could make.
2. John Stuart Mill argued for liberty of thought and expression on utilitarian grounds. Explain why a utilitarian would support nearly absolute protection of free speech. Give what you regard as a compelling objection to Mill's claim. How might Mill reply? What do you think? Is Mill's argument a good one?
3. Rawls and Nozick disagree about whether social and economic inequality is unjust. Give what you regard as each thinker's best argument for his position. Who makes the better case?
4. What is the best case for thinking that the parties in the original position would choose some version of utilitarianism rather than Rawls's principles of justice? Why does Rawls think they would choose his principles instead? What do you think the parties would choose?

