

Fourth paper topics

Please answer the following question in 900 words or fewer, about three double-spaced pages. Please bring a copy of your paper to class on Wednesday, November 17. Please leave an electronic copy in the Sakai drop box as well. Good luck!

Paternalistic policies seek to influence the behavior of individuals for their own good. Thaler and Sunstein's "libertarian paternalism" leaves individuals free to resist the paternalistic influence and requires that the paternalism be for their own good "*as judged by themselves.*" (p. 5) Glaeser does not share Sunstein and Thaler's enthusiasm for this kind of paternalism but, rather, argues that it can be counterproductive and dangerous in various ways.

Thaler and Sunstein's book, *Nudge*, contains a variety of examples of libertarian paternalism that Thaler and Sunstein endorse. Some are more susceptible to Glaeser's criticisms than others. Illustrate the strengths and limitations of Glaeser's critique by choosing examples from *Nudge* which are open to criticisms of the sort Glaeser offers, and other examples for which Glaeser's commentary seems wide of the mark.

