

DRAFT

POLITICAL ECONOMY 100 –FALL 2012
CLASSICAL THEORIES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
NEWSPAPER ASSIGNMENT #1
DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON October 4, 2012

Throughout the first several weeks of this course, we have asked you to consider the political economy of community as set forth in the works of several theorists—from the classical works of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle to those of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Bentham. The political campaigns of the two candidates for president, and the two parties, speak to this purpose--the good of the community--of the distribution of wealth and power. **Of course the views on the "good of the community" differ, as well as strategies to achieve it.** Using at least three but not more than five articles drawn from the Wall Street Journal which address issues of community in the current electoral environment, write a 2-3 page essay describing the assumptions about "community" evident in the articles and to which theorist you think those assumptions can be traced.

THIS ESSAY SHOULD ADDRESS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING

What definition of community is implicit or explicit in the articles?
What strategies are proposed to achieve the "good" of the community?
Identify the theory(or theories) that seem to implicitly or explicitly inform the article.
Are the authors concerned with national communities, local communities, religious communities, or communities defined in terms of race, ethnicity, language?
What policies do the articles analyze and support and why? What communities are specific policies intended to benefit? Do the authors presume that for one community to benefit another has to suffer? What are the authors' perspectives on justice? What do the authors presume about human nature? The role of the state? In general, what assumptions or set of presumptions can you detect operating in the articles? Are the arguments set forth in each article based on reason or is there an underlying ideological current driving the argument?

Your analytical and reasoned essay must be at least two but not more than three pages long. Use one inch margins (top/bottom and right/left), double space the text, use a 12 point font, put page numbers on every page and put your name and section number (ONLY) on the first page in the upper right hand corner.

Please provide concrete examples – not necessarily literal quotes – from the articles and the reading to support your argument. Organize your essay in paragraphs with a clear thesis at the beginning. You may use "in-text" parenthetical citations, but all claims not your own must be cited, and all claims that are your own must be anchored in **evidence**, rather than opinion, faith, belief or feeling.

Please **attach** the articles to your essay. Use staples.

Your assignment will be assessed based on the clarity and quality of expression, the depth and rigor of analysis, the extent to which it demonstrates command of the course materials and your ability and willingness to engage that material on its own terms.