

A4: Thematic Paper

A4 is due Friday, December 4 at the start of class. Submit to Moodle. Length should be approximately 1750 words. Any reasonable formatting is acceptable.

Purpose: analyze an important idea from one of the texts we read in the second half of the semester, relating it to other works studied in the course.

Choose one of the works studied in the second half of the semester (i.e. from Descartes onwards). Within that work, isolate one important idea that has helped to “shape the world.” By considering how this idea, or variants of it, are treated by other authors we have studied, develop a thesis related to the idea. Write an essay that explains your thesis, using evidence from several of the works studied during the course. A strong essay will probably refer to at least two or three works from the second half of the semester and one or two works from the first half of the semester.