

Questionnaire – please complete by *this Friday (9-6)*

The questions below encompass just some of the “big questions” that we will touch on in Humanities as we explore the evolution of Western culture. Instructions:

1. Agree or disagree with each statement with a checkmark.
2. Write additional comments or qualifications to the right of the question. Feel free to add general comments at the end of the section. (***Expect you to add comments more often than not.***)
3. This will be followed up by a short reflection paper due at the end of next week. (You will be receiving this assignment in seminar.)

What is human nature?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
1. Humans are generally born good and corrupted by society and circumstance.			
2. Humans are naturally sinful creatures.			
3. Human nature is determined by biology and physiology; terms like “good” and “bad” don’t apply.			
4. Our nature begins as a blank slate and is determined by environment.			
5. Human nature is consistent across cultures.			
6. Humans are naturally self-serving – people must be taught to be good social creatures.			
7. Technology (from the wheel to cell phones) can fundamentally change us as human beings – for good or ill.			
8. Human nature is constant – and technology only serves to amplify what is already there.			
General comments:			
What is a good/ideal life?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
9. Serving others.			
10. Serving God/a higher power.			
11. Pursuing your own pleasure.			
12. Determining your own set of morals and then living by them.			
General comments:			
How do we determine morality and ethics?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
13. Moral standards are absolute: what is right is right in all situations; what is wrong is wrong			
14. Moral standards are relative – what is right depends on the individual and the situation			

15. An ethical act is one which you would sanction others doing to you.			
General comments:			
What is justice?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
16. Justice is, essentially, an “eye for an eye”; the wrong-doers punishment should be equal to the crime committed.			
17. Justice is a device to keep order in a society.			
18. “Justice” is structured to keep the powerful in power.			
19. Without some degree of social and financial equality, there can be no justice.			
General comments:			
What is suffering? Why does it exist?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
20. Suffering ennobles the sufferer and teaches lessons.			
21. Suffering is a divine test.			
22. Suffering is the price of existence.			
23. Suffering is without meaning and should be avoided whenever possible.			
General comments:			
What is evil? Why does it exist?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
24. Evil is relative; it depends on the eye of the beholder.			
25. Evil is anything that goes against God’s will.			
26. Evil is human selfishness and malice.			
General comments:			
What is truth?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
27. Truth is relative: it depends on situation; we all have different “truths.”			
28. Truth is absolute: what is true is true.			
29. Truth can be derived only by the scientific method; what we cannot determine through science cannot be discussed in terms of “true.”			
General comments:			

What is our relationship to the physical and natural world?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
30. The <i>physical</i> world is mostly irrelevant to higher invisible truths.			
31. The <i>physical</i> world is all there is.			
32. The <i>natural</i> world is worthy of reverence in and of itself.			
33. The <i>natural</i> world is mainly a resource for human needs.			
General comments:			
How should people ideally treat each other?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
34. It's every man for himself.			
35. Treat others as you would be treated.			
36. Care for those of your family/community, but it is impractical/unwise to extend your circle of caring beyond that.			
General comments:			
What is an ideal society/community?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
37. Government should insure the greatest good for the greatest number.			
38. Government should insure the greatest freedom for the individual to pursue his or her individual destinies.			
39. Government should prioritize peace, stability, and order over personal freedom.			
40. Government will always become a tool of the powerful.			
41. Pursuing individual self-interest will, through competition, produce the most productive, efficient society.			
42. People should obey the laws of their government, regardless of their personal opinion.			
43. People should obey the laws of their government only if those laws do not transgress basic morality.			
44. Those with wealth have an obligation to give back to the community and society.			
General comments:			
What determines ownership?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
45. No one truly "owns" anything.			
46. Anything you earn, you own.			
47. Birthright should never determine ownership.			

48. Owning property (be it land or otherwise) is a sacred right			
49. One of the main roles of government should be to protect property. Otherwise, chaos would ensue.			
General comments:			
What is the nation-state?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
50. Our national identity is a primary determiner of our own identity.			
51. Religious and ethnic identity is stronger than national identity.			
52. Ethnic identity should ideally be one and the same as national identity.			
53. Nations should be able to act unilaterally in their best interests.			
54. Our national identity should be secondary to our identity as a member of the global society.			
General comments:			
What is art? What is its function?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
55. Art is whatever the artist says it is.			
56. Art should be beautiful.			
57. Art should be ennobling.			
58. Art should challenge the audience.			
59. Art should display a rare mastery of technique.			
60. Art cannot be mass produced; it must be original and individual.			
General comments:			
What is music? What is its function?	Agree	Disagree	Additional comments/qualifications:
61. Music is necessary to human life.			
62. Music unites a culture together and is critical to group identity.			
63. Music is connected to the fundamental workings of the universe.			
64. Music does not serve much of a purpose beyond entertainment.			