The first paper is due **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 by 5:00 P.M.**

Choose one of the following topics for your first 4-5 page scholarly paper. You should rely heavily on the readings assigned for class when writing your essay.

1. What does Aristotle mean when he writes that the *polis* “exists by nature” and that “man is by nature a political animal?” In other words, when Aristotle writes about human nature, what does he mean by “nature”? Why are human beings meant by “nature” to live in a *polis*?

2. In Book I of *The Politics*, why does Aristotle write that barbarians are fit to be slaves? Is he right?

3. What is virtue, according to Aristotle? What are the virtues? Which virtue would Aristotle say is the most important?

4. What is the purpose of education, according to John Locke? What effect should education have on an individual, and what effect should it have on society as a whole? What are the problems Locke is trying to solve by reforming education?

5. Why are both a sound body and sound mind necessary for happiness and virtue, according to John Locke? How should parents promote “sound minds and sound bodies” in their children?

6. John Locke writes that certain types of bad behavior in children must be corrected through education. What are these behaviors? Are they “natural” or learned behaviors? Why must they be corrected? How can they be corrected?

7. Xenophon begins his book on Cyrus by observing that “it is easier, given his nature, for a human being to rule all the other kinds of animals than to rule human beings.” (page 22) What evidence is found in Aristotle’s *Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics*, and John Locke’s *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*, to explain why human beings are so difficult to rule?

8. What effect did the education Cyrus received in Persia and the education he received in Media have on his character? Would John Locke say that Cyrus received a proper or a poor education?

9. In his dealings with others, how does Cyrus demonstrate his knowledge of human nature? How did Cyrus acquire this knowledge of human nature?

10. What actions taken by Cyrus reveal his understanding of political leadership? What has influenced Cyrus’ understanding of leadership?