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First Paper Assignment

The Free State of Christiana has adopted its nine part common law (no guns, hard drugs, violence, private cares, gang colors, bullet proof clothes, fireworks, explosives, or stealing.) But, what makes this law, where does its status as law come from, and why might it be or not be law? Use the readings from the first week to help you to address these epistemological (theory of knowledge) and ontological (nature of being) questions.

The main goal I have is that you demonstrate your analytical and synthetic thinking skills with regard to the readings. You can show your analytical skills by taking apart their structures, arguments, and evidence and constructively criticizing them. You can demonstrate your synthetic thinking skills by bringing disparate ideas in the readings together and integrating your own knowledge of the subject.

The paper should be a maximum of **five pages** long. You should cite heavily to the text so that it is clear where you find support for your ideas and contentions (at least an average of five citations per page). Well-organized, strongly cited, well reasoned, and clearly written papers are very easy to grade. Poorly organized, unsupported, muddily reasoned, and hastily written papers are also very easy to grade. I would love it if your papers are easy to grade in the good way. It is always a good idea to outline your argument in the introduction and to help your reader follow your argument by providing sub-headings.

The **due date** for the paper is the beginning of class, **Wednesday July 8th**. If you turn the paper in a day **early** to me at my office (SSB 367) on Tuesday between 3-4 p.m., you will receive a 2% bonus. If you turn the paper in to me after the beginning of class, there is 5% **penalty** for each day it is late. Be aware that the political science department office will not accept papers and that you cannot submit papers electronically.

Please use the seven-steps method in writing this paper. I am confident it will help reduce your stress and improve the quality of your thinking and writing. Best of luck!