Suggested Paper Topics I

(1) In what way is the French woman in *Hiroshima Mon Amour* like Johannes *de Silentio*? Do you see a way in which she is different? Discuss both *Fear and Trembling* and the film in support of your view.

(2) From Kierkegaard's point of view is it a weakness of *Hiroshima Mon Amour* that we find out so little about the Japanese man's former world, its destruction, and his plans for living with the French woman? Why do we get so many flashbacks of her past and none of his?

(3) Can we view Harry Lime as a knight of faith suspending the ethical? Can we view Anna as one? (Answer either question or both.)

(4) If the knight of faith senses that “God could give him a new Isaac” (p.65) hasn't he removed the risk essential to faith? How would Kierkegaard respond to this charge?

(5) In what sense is the ethical a consolation for the tragic hero and in what sense is it a temptation for the knight of faith?

(6) What is absurd about the knight of faith's actions in the Preamble? What is absurd about the knight of faith's actions in Problema I and II? Do you see anything in common between the kind of absurdity in the Preamble and the kind in the Problema?

(7) What does Kierkegaard mean when he says faith "is not the immediate inclination of the heart but the paradox of existence" (p.76)?

(8) In the beginning of *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, the French woman seems self-confident, self-sufficient and satisfied with her life. By the end she experiences her life as one of “utter sadness.” What brought about her change?

(9) What aspects of the Greek tradition and what aspects of the Judeo-Christian tradition does Kierkegaard preserve? How does this allow him to offer the best of both worlds?

**LENGTH: 5 - 7 pages**

**DUE: Monday, October 12th in Howison Library by 6 pm.**

Be sure to write the name of your GSI on your paper.

Suggestions: 1) Raise specific issues. Make the answers to these questions clearly answers to these specific questions. 2) Avoid jargon, e.g. "Death of God" and "meaninglessness", etc. In using words such as "commitment", "absurdity", and "faith", make sure to make clear the author's use of the term. 3) Avoid summary comparison. Show differences as well as similarities in any comparisons you make. 4) Avoid merely repeating what was said in lectures and sections. 5) Support your arguments with specific details from the texts. In the case of films, quote from the scenario. 6) Keep a copy of your essay.

**NOTE:** You are encouraged to write on a topic of your own, but before you begin you must have the approval of your GSI.