1. **Ethics and Culture Paper (4 pages):** The goal of this paper is for the student to choose a piece of culture (e.g., a great painting, work of music, fiction, etc.) that not only exemplifies but *further illuminates* a particular topic or chapter from class (e.g., morality of happiness, hope, sin, etc.) For example, someone discussing the sin of envy (ch. 12), or the Catholic tradition of the afterlife (ch. 13), could examine how a particular work provides more insight into how people exhibit and are shaped by envy, or how a cultural work might enrich our concept of the afterlife. You are to show how a class topic shows up and plays out *in the details* (imagery, events, conversations, actions, etc.) of the work. Note that you may argue how this piece of culture confirms and extends what was said in class, or how it challenges what was said in a class reading, etc.
2. **REQUIREMENTS**. 4 pages *double-spaced*, 12 point, Times New Roman font. In terms of citation/footnoting, *any format for doing so is fine.* Be sure to footnote at least two references from the Mattison book to ground your paper in course materials. You may also use a Mattison chapter that is ahead in our syllabus schedule (e.g., justice, or chastity/sexuality). Footnote the Scruton reading once or more in your paper: for instance, you could descibe how a certain aspect of the cultural work “invites our sympathy” with a moral idea, or “teaches us how to feel” about something, or encourages certain habits of thought/perception/feeling/behaviour, etc. At the same time, note that a work often presents two sides of a view and can be read as supporting different principles: e.g., people debate whether Carmen or Micaela is the real heroine of Bizet’s *Carmen*, whether Shakespeare’s *Henry V* or Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* is wholeheartedly pro-war or calls it into question, etc.
3. **A FEW SUGGESTED/EXAMPLE TOPICS**

(note: all chapter references are to the Mattison textbook)

Sexuality/lust/chastity (ch. 17) in Bizet’s *Carmen*(available to video stream through

CUA libraries, search databases under “Met Opera In Demand”)

Sin (ch. 17) or choosing Hell (ch. 13) in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* (also through Met Opera

in Demand)

 Envy or gluttony (ch. 12) in Dante’s *Purgatorio*

Hope (ch. 13) in Michelangelo’s *The Last Judgment* (Sistine chapel)

The question of “just war” (ch 7) in Shakespeare’s *Henry V*

Justice/injustice (ch. 7) in J.M.W. Turner’s *The Slave Ship*

Jesus Christ (ch 14) in *The Christmas Story in Art* (NGA

Morality of happiness (ch 1) in Dickens’ *The Christmas Carol*

Pride (ch 12) in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*

Sin/repentance (ch. 12) in Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

Moral freedom (ch 2) in ???

Growth in virtue (ch 3) in ???

Charity in (ch 15) in ???

Etc.

1. **REGARDING CHOICE OF TOPIC:**

If you pick a longer work (e.g., novel vs. poem), don’t worry. You don’t need to “sum up” the entire work; you just need to engage the parts that are relevant to the moral topic. *You may choose something like a contemporary movie*, etc., but while you could still get a perfect grade doing so, you will automatically get a bonus point (e.g., assigned grade of solid B+ would be bumped up to A-) for doing a “classical” work such as those listed above, or something similar (such works are typically more complex and well-established, pushing reflection a bit more). This bonus point can be “banked:” i.e., if you would have gotten an A anyway, your *overall* grade will get a bonus point instead.