

### **End of Unit 2 Writing Assignment**

Your writing assignment for the end of Unit 2 is a 500–700 word answer to one of the following six questions. Your responses should be mainly expository, focusing on careful readings of the relevant texts. This is an exercise in interpretation, though some critical assessment is, as always, welcome.

In groups, on February 25, you will have the opportunity to talk about how to answer each of the questions. At the end of class, each student will draw one question number at random. A hard copy of the writing assignment is due at the beginning of our next class, Tuesday, March 1.

1. What kinds of errors are made by philosophers by not attending to the meanings of terms? How does Hobbes avoid such errors?
2. Why might consciousness and memory be problems for Hobbes? How does he account for them?
3. For Spinoza, what are substances, modes, and attributes? How is Spinoza's view different from Descartes's view?
4. What does Spinoza mean by saying that substance is infinite? How is this view part of a solution to the mind-body problem?
5. How does Spinoza conclude that nothing in nature is contingent? Consider his characterizations of 'contingent', 'necessary', and 'impossible' in 1P33.
6. Explain 2P7: The order and connection of ideas is the same as the order and connection of things. Does Descartes agree?