

## **Philosophy c156. Paper due Oct. 26**

*Pick one and write a 5-page paper on it.*

1. Consider Nozick's Wilt Chamberlain example. Argue for the claim that it's impermissible for a government to use coercion to tax Chamberlain by appealing to one of the following: (a) the value of freedom; (b) basic moral rights against interference; (c) self-ownership. Evaluate this argument.
2. For each of the considerations (a), (b), and (c), use that consideration in an argument for the claim that it is impermissible to tax Chamberlain. Compare these three arguments.
3. In section 1 of "Natural property rights" Gibbard concludes that a system of unqualified private property will not emerge from people's self-interested bargaining subject to hard libertarian rights to liberty. After explaining Gibbard's conception of hard libertarian rights, summarize and evaluate one of Gibbard's arguments for this conclusion.
4. Page 1 of the handout from October 12 gives an argument for the claim that, under normal conditions, to achieve equality requires impermissibly taking people's goods from them. Criticize this argument by arguing against one of its premises (1), (2), (3), (4), or (6).
5. A "Lockean proviso" holds that the appropriation of an initially unowned resource is permissible only if its effects on nonappropriators meet a certain condition C. Locke, Nozick, Cohen, and Michael Otsuka defend different versions of the proviso by defending different conditions C. Explain the provisos defended by two or more of these writers. What do they imply about the permissibility of appropriation in Cohen's case of a person, A, who appropriates all of the land, leaving another person, B, with no decent alternative to working for A? (To answer this question, you don't have to read Locke or Otsuka; you may use the views and arguments attributed to them by Nozick, Cohen, and/or the handouts.)
6. State what you take to be the most plausible version of the thesis that people own themselves. Does this version of the thesis imply that people do not have obligations to help other people by working to produce goods for them?
7. True or false: There's an important moral objection to workers' being forced to transfer part of their product to capitalists if and only if there's an important moral objection to taxpayers' being forced to transfer part of their income to governments.
8. In sections 7 and 8 of "The structure of proletarian unfreedom" Cohen claims that the 10 people locked in a room are individually free and collectively unfree to leave the room and that workers are individually free and collectively unfree not to work for capitalists. Summarize and evaluate Cohen's section 7 and 8 arguments for these claims.

