Small Assignment 3: Locke and Nozick
Fall 2019

Recall: Over the course of the term, you will be assigned 20 points worth of small assignments. This is the third; worth 3 points.

In Nozick's discussion of distributive justice and his theory of property, Nozick returns to a discussion of Locke's theory of acquisition (the very last two sections of our reading). This is not surprising; Nozick's theory is obviously influenced by Locke's political philosophy. Nonetheless, Nozick tries to clarify a few arguments that were either obscure or otherwise not entirely successful. For this Small Assignment, write a paragraph that explains **two features of Nozick's theory that he gets from Locke**, and **one way he clarifies Locke's view**.

Tips:

- You should explain a bit about Nozick's view of property. This doesn't have to be extensive, but it should be enough to summarize the gist of his overall view.

- Then, you should explain two features of Nozick's view that he gets from Locke. These are two things that Nozick *agrees with* Locke about.

- *Justify* your claim about how Nozick gets these ideas from Locke. In other words, don't just make a claim that Nozick got such and such idea from Locke, but explain why you think that he did. This can be done either by citing textual evidence from the reading, or by explaining how Nozick's view entails some of the claims that Locke defended in his work.

- Finally, explain one part of Locke's theory that Nozick tries to clarify. There's some part of Locke's theory that Nozick thought was in need of clarification. What's that – and how does Nozick clarify it? (Hint: Nozick does this primarily in the section of the reading entitled *The Proviso*.)

Some important things to note:

1. This is due in class on Friday, November 15th.

2. You can either handwrite the paragraph right on this sheet or type it up and submit it. (There will be no portal on Sakai.)

3. This should be a substantial paragraph: easily 10 – 15 sentences. It can be longer if you like but there is no need for more than one paragraph. Think of it like a more extensive answer to a question you might see on an exam for this class.