1. You should answer these questions twice. **Before** you do the reading put down what **you** believe right now, not what you think the author believes. Please type these into the downloaded file and print it out. Then do the reading. Go through the questions again, using a clean version of the Word document, and explain in detail how **the author(s)** would answer the questions.

2. Write a short essay (roughly 2 pages) reflecting on how the author challenges your beliefs. You should do more than list differences: lay out the author's arguments (and evidence) against your beliefs, and reflect on what changes in your own beliefs may or may not be warranted.

When you're finished, you should have three files. Put the final essay on top, and mark it with your name, the date, and the author who is challenging your beliefs. Staple them and hand me a copy in class on **TUESDAY** (24 January). Since not everyone has the textbook yet, the questions will come from the on-line readings.

**Reading #1: Russell Kirk**

What is "tradition?"

How do they relate to politics?

How **should** they relate to politics?

What are the "great American traditions?" (politically speaking, not "apple pie")

From whence do they come?

But do those traditions really have such a hold on us, a immigrant, polyglot nation?

Are Americans individualists?

Why?

Are Conservatives (like Kirk) individualists?

**Reading #2: Hardy Wickwar**

Powerful intellectual currents swept Europe in the 18th Century, why didn't they take hold here?

What is the role of "property" in American political tradition (this is a complicated question--when you answer this after reading, please try to address the complexities).

What impacts did that thinking about property have on how our political institutions are organized?