CT2-18-03

- Announce Power Point class on 3-4
- Vote on the next reading from Pinker
- Conclude discussion of Chapter 19
- Set up appointments to talk about your projects.
Pinker chapters on:

• 4. Culture Vultures: Links between innate human faculties and varied cultures, basis for commonalities and cultural differences.

• 5. The Slate’s Last Stand: a) Not enough genes, b) connectionism, c) extreme neural plasticity.

• 6. Political Scientists: How the Blank Slate became sacred doctrine, and challenges from sociobiology and evolutionary psychology.
• 7. The Holy Trinity: Blank Slate, Noble Savage, and Ghost in the Machine

• 8. The Fear of Inequality: Rejection of Blank Slate will lead to Prejudice, Social Darwinism, and Eugenics*

• 9. The Fear of Imperfectability: Social reform is a waste of time because human nature is unchangeable, danger of utopian dreams
• **10. The Fear of Determinism:** We are not in control of our own choices, so why bother over the right thing to do (basis for criminal law)*

• **11. The Fear of Nihilism:** Biological explanations may strip our lives of meaning purpose, and morality

• **12. In Touch with Reality:** not just socially constructed or directly available.
13. Out of Our Depths: The mismatch between evolutionary adaptation and complexity of our society today, boundary dilemmas about “life”*

14. The Many Roots of Our Suffering: Perspectives on human conflict and self deception from Evolutionary Psychology

15. The Sanctimonious Animal: The value and danger in our moral emotions
• 16. Politics: Right and left wing views of the Blank Slate

• 17. Violence: Nature, nurture, and both. The expanding circle, culture of honor*

• 18. Gender: Nature of sex differences, and the rapid change in gender roles*
Possible meeting times for project discussion

19 Wed. 9-12
20 Thur. 8:15-9:15
21 Fri. 8:15-12
24 Mon. 8:15-12
25 Tue. 8:15-9:15
26 Wed. 8:15-12, 1-2:30
27 Thur. 8:15-9:15, 1:30-2:30
28 Fri. 8:15-12, 1-2:30