Discussion Sheet #1: Shalom, Which Side Are You On?

What: Please complete this discussion exercise for Chapter 1, “Conservatism”

How? Use the form and space below.

When? Due at the beginning of class, Monday, October 13

Conservatism------

1. Briefly summarize—in your own words---the two sources of modern conservatism.

2. What values seem to be the most important in defining the general viewpoint of conservatism?

3. Why does the conservative believe that capitalism is consistent with human nature?

4. What do conservatives see as “the legitimate job of government?” How is the conservative position on crime similar to the position on foreign policy?

5. Briefly, what are some of your reactions to conservatism? What questions come to mind? What issues or topics do conservatives ignore?
Conservative Voices:

Sample at least three (3) of the following conservative voices in US public life. (Find a bio or mission statement) Briefly comment on what characteristics of conservatism you found in their statements, broadcasts, or writings. What issues and questions arise for you as a result of tuning in to these sources of political conservatism? Which is the best source for understanding conservatism?

Conservative voices:

George Will (editorial writer) [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/opinion/columns/willgeorge/]
Rush Limbaugh (talk radio) [http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/today.guest.html]
Charles Krauthammer (editorial writer) [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/opinion/columns/krauthammercharles/]
William Safire (editorial writer) [http://www.nytimes.com/top/opinion/editorialsandoped/oped/columnists/williamsafire/]
David Reinhard (Oregonian editorialist) [http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/david_reinhard/]
American Spectator [http://www.spectator.org/]
The Weekly Standard [http://www.weeklystandard.com/]
Washington Times (editorial page) [http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/]
Front Page Magazine [http://www.frontpagemag.com/]
Young Americans Foundation [http://www.yaf.org/]
Heritage Foundation [http://www.heritage.org/]
Christian Coalition [http://www.cc.org/]