

**LITERATURE, ETHICS, AND AUTHORITY**  
**15.269**

**Topics for Paper #3: due Monday 14 May 2001, in class. These papers are to be 5-7 pp. in length, typewritten and double-spaced. Choose *one* topic; you may write on one or more of the books/films in the introduction and five sections of the course. Please keep a copy of your paper for your files.**

1. In our class sessions, seminar participants have often held widely divergent views on issues raised by the text or film under discussion. Comment on one or more of such debates – state the issues, and explore why and how people diverged. Comment, too, on any changes your own views may have undergone as a result of the classroom conversation.
2. "Hollywood endings" – in the worlds we've explored in 15.269, certain events seem convenient for the author or the characters or both; others have a logic of their own, consistent with the story world and our own sense of reality. Citing specific examples from the course and your life, evaluate the role of story in your explanation(s) – either to yourself or to others – of your past experience and your future intentions.
3. Comparing materials from multiple segments of the course, comment on some continuing aspect of our reading and viewing – for example, issues of dominance, self-determination, or community, the pursuit of wealth, the individual's responsibility to society, the nature of management, leadership, or happiness.