**Second Essay Assignment**

In a well organized, fully documented, and analytical essay of 2-3 double-spaced pages, please analyze some aspect of a particular environmental problem, adverse incident or disaster. You must provide references that give the history and background of the incident or problem.

You should consider two questions: “What good was intended by the action that led to the problem (and was it a real good)?” and “How were the consequences unforeseen (and should they have been foreseen)?”

You are expected to choose from one to three aspects or actions of the incident or problem and critically discuss arguments both for and against the action taken or to be taken. Please be sure to keep a narrow focus so that your analysis can be thorough in 2-3 pages!

It is recommended that you draw upon the class discussions, films, current events, assigned readings and your more general knowledge to substantiate your argument. All sources must be referenced.

I suggest that you begin with an analytical outline. This would include the following elements:

- **Thesis** (that answers the question above)
- **Bridge** (that introduces key concepts and aspects of our historical, political, and social context)
- **Examples** (each section presenting a thesis statement, further context, and support whether from the CSM or other materials/stories/discussions from class)
- **Restatement** (explaining what you’ve learned from this exercise, as well as new questions that this assignment has provoked in your own thinking and experience of current events)

A solid essay will present at least two perspectives: one, that which you presently hold; two, that of someone whom you imagine to be living quite differently than you; and perhaps others that represent the complexity of relationships out there in the world. A “perspective” is much more than a mere opinion. It is an argumentative position based on your feelings, experience, our readings, current events, and the numerous life stories that we have heard or observed so far. There are lots of names and faces that we can meaningfully attach to our Christian ethical and globalization considerations.

You should not set up a straw man to be knocked down, but genuinely inhabit and argue honestly for at least one point of view (POV) other than your own. You are welcome to then refute that point of view—if you were unable to refute it, it would probably not be the “other” POV, after all—during the course of presenting your own conclusions on the topic. All POV presented should be well supported by argument and, if possible, references.

If you find that your essay is too short, try giving more examples or making your arguments more thorough. If you find that your essay is too long, sharpen the focus! **You are limited to three pages.**

You are seniors. I expect senior-level work. Proofread your essay. Have a coursemate read and critique it. You must, of course, follow standard bibliographic and reference format. See the Chicago Manual of Style, which was introduced in your 1st Year Seminar class, and is always for sale at the bookstore.

* Any standard bibliographic and reference format is acceptable, so long as it is complete.
For the essay rubric, see http://www.bluffton.edu/~bergerd/classes/LAS400/rubric.html. See also my hints for writing Capstone essays at http://www.bluffton.edu/~bergerd/classes/LAS400/essayHints.html.

As with any written assignment, feel free to work with the Writing Center staff, or call upon me during office hours, or engage one another in preparation—up to the point when you begin writing. Your classmates may, indeed, offer the best and most helpful feedback. Good luck—some great essays come out of CVGC.

The legal boilerplate
This essay is due by 8:30 AM on Saturday, February 14, by e-mail to bergerd@bluffton.edu, in Microsoft Word format. Paper copies will not be accepted, but you may submit your essay on a floppy disk or CD as an alternative to E-mail. This counts for 10% of your final grade. Late papers will lose one point (of 20) per calendar day, unless I have granted an extension prior to the due date. Copies turned in on disk must be in my hands (not just my mailbox) by Saturday, February 14, or they will be considered late.

Suggested incidents and problems
Below, I suggest some topics that might suitable for a 2- to 3-page essay. Other topics will be suggested by your course readings. I suggest that you not choose something too over-arching, like global warming—you are limited to three pages!

♦ The Chernobyl disaster is a perennial favorite; a Google search turns up lots of references http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=chernobyl

♦ Three Mile Island is an American counterpart to Chernobyl—but is it really? http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=%22three+mile+island%22

♦ The use of DDT, which nearly eradicated yellow fever in the Americas and made huge inroads against malaria, dengue fever and the like—and also nearly eradicated the top of the food chain in a number of ecosystems. http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=DDT+%22yellow+fever%22 (Google search)