



Topic I

“Suppose there were an experience machine that would give you any experience that you desired. Superduper neuropsychologists could stimulate your brain so that you would think and feel you were writing a great novel, or making a friend, or reading an interesting book. All the time you would be floating in a tank, with electrodes attached to your brain. Should you plug into this machine for life, preprogramming your life’s experiences?”

—Robert Nozick (1974). *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. New York: Basic Books 2013, p. 42.

Topic II

“Things don’t have purposes, as if the universe were a machine, where every part has a useful function. What’s the function of a galaxy? I don’t know if our life has a purpose and I don’t see that it matters. What does matter is that we’re a part. Like a thread in a cloth or a grass-blade in a field. It *is* and we *are*. What we do is like wind blowing on the grass.”

—Ursula Le Guin (1971). *The Lathe of Heaven*. SF Masterworks Series. London: Gollancz 2001, p. 81.

Topic III

“One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 16, 1963). *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. London: Penguin Books 2018, p. 10.

Topic IV

“If I were to give a summary of the tendency of our times, I would say, Quantity. The multitude, the mass spirit, dominates everywhere, destroying quality. Our entire life—production, politics, and education—rests on quantity, on numbers.”

—Emma Goldman (1917). *Minorities Versus Majorities*. In: *Anarchism and Other Essays*. New York: Dover Publications 1969/2020, p. 69.