

THE INDIVIDUAL: MASTER OF FATE OR VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE?

The readings, writing assignments, discussion, and videos were chosen to develop the theme of the course (The Individual: Master of Fate or Victim of Circumstance?), as well as to stimulate and to provide data for your thinking. The following questions are intended to further this process.

I hope you will give serious thought to some of them; however, I do not expect you to arrive at definitive answers.

Control

How much control does the individual have over her/his life or the lives of others?

How much control do I have over my life or the lives of others ?

Is the belief that we can control our lives, aspects of our lives, or others an illusion?

Is the individual controlled or directed by external forces?

Am I controlled or directed by external forces?

Influence

How much influence does the individual have over others?

How much influence do I have over others?

Is the individual influenced by external forces?

Am I influenced by external forces?

How do the beliefs and expectations—learned from family, classmates, secular and religious teachers, reading, the media, and society—influence me an individual?