Pre-assignment question (due 15 Oct.):

Write one typed double-spaced paragraph on what Voltaire satirizes and why in Candide (1759). chapter ________.

For European nations that he satirizes, see Brummett, chs. 16-17; for the New World, see Brummett, ch. 16; for ideas that he satirizes, see, Brummett, ch. 18.

Paper question (use one), for a typed, double-spaced essay (4-5 pp., 15%, due Oct. 29):

1. Was Voltaire a product of or a critic of the Age of Enlightenment? Examine Voltaire's evaluation of Enlightenment ideals in Candide. Does Voltaire only criticize and satirize the practices of his age, or does he also criticize Enlightenment thought? Are there any Enlightenment ideals that he defends? Is he accurate? Use at least two additional documents (from Reilly and/or the end of Voltaire, Candide, ed. and trans. Daniel Gordon) to identify thought and practices.

2. Ecrasez l'infâme (Crush the infamous thing!) cried Voltaire in his letters. But what is "the infamous thing"? Using documents on either religion or 18th-century war, trade, and empires, argue what Voltaire finds most objectionable about his period focusing on three different aspects of the subject. Is he accurate? Use at least two additional documents (from Reilly and/or the end of Voltaire, Candide, ed. and trans. Daniel Gordon) to identify thought and practices.

Use Brummett, et. al., Civilization for context of the eighteenth century.