

**Economics 189: Economics at the Movies**  
**Professor David M. Lang**

**Essay #1 – *Antz* (1998)**  
**Due: February 2, 2006**

*The essay should be 1 page in length, with 1-inch margins on the top, bottom, left, and right of the page. Please use 12-point font and double-space. If you use any sources in preparing this essay, you should make sure to cite them appropriately. Good luck!*

You have probably heard of (and quite possibly studied) the differences between the economic systems known as Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism. For our purposes, think of Capitalism as “an economic system with free enterprise and private property rights using the market”, Socialism as “an economic system where many of the country’s resources are collectively owned and the main goal is to equalize income distribution”, and Communism as an economic system that reaches that main goal of Socialism. In lecture next week, we will discuss the characteristics, criticisms, and ideology of Capitalism as well as Socialism (and, to a lesser extent, Communism).

The movie *Antz* illustrates (pun intended) these points by considering the economic system of a specific ant colony. In this essay, use examples from the movie as well as points from the lecture to compare and contrast the roles of individual laborers in Capitalist and Socialist economic systems. Be sure to include a discussion of the relationship between the individual and the state (i.e. the economy as a whole).