

THIRD ANCIENT PAPER PROMPT

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 24

This paper is a little bit different from the previous ones in that it is a comparison paper, giving you more choices in terms of the specific topic.

In the paper,

- Choose a topic on which Plato and Aristotle disagrees.
- Compare the two approaches:
 - Present both Plato’s and Aristotle’s claim, and also their arguments.
 - Show where the disagreement lies.
 - Is this disagreement subsequent on some other, deeper disagreement? If yes, what, and how?
- Evaluate. Do you think either of them gets it right? Why? Why not?

For example (you might choose your topic from these, or on your own):

- Forms in Plato and Aristotle. (What are they? Why do we need them?)
- Plato and Aristotle as a response to the Presocratic challenge on change.
- The soul, especially in relation to the body.
- The body. What are the consequences of Plato’s and Aristotle’s theory of the soul with respect to how we should treat our bodies?
- The origin and the object of knowledge.

General notes, some of which had already been noted:

- The narrower your topic is, the easier it will be to make the comparison.
- Try to delineate the *specific* disagreement in question. It is not always very easy.
- Do not forget to give the *precise* reference for everything you quote. As a reminder, we refer to Plato by the Stephanus numbers (e.g., 325a), and to Aristotle by the Bekker numbers (e.g., 413a). If it is a direct, verbatim quotation, in addition to this you might also give the page numbers in the book where you got it from — this will be the page number in the specific edition of the Anthology you are using. If so, you need to give the citation details in the Bibliography (editor, title, publisher, year).
- I do not mind which citation style you use, but do try to be consistent. (In philosophy, we tend to use Chicago, but again, it’s up to you. Please, please, do not cite an Aristotle text by saying ‘(Aristotle)’ or ‘(Cohen)’. The aim of giving a proper citation is to make it easy for your reader to find the passage. I will not find the passage easily if you just say it is by Aristotle.)

- The best introductory book to Aristotle is Christopher Shields, *Aristotle* (Routledge, 2014), which gives an excellent overview and a thorough analysis of the most important topics. Another, much older but still very good one is *Aristotle* by Sir David Ross. They are both available in the library. The *Oxford Handbook of Aristotle* has some interesting studies as well; it is not available in the library, but feel free to pick it up in my office if you need it.
- Expected length: however long it takes you to say what you want to say. Generally 3–5 pages, but it is flexible.

Please bring your paper in hard copy to class on the day of the due date, OR send it to me by e-mail before class. Late assignments will not be considered.

Do NOT write your name on your paper. Submit it with a number generated by your birthday (MMDDYY) and the last two digits of the zip code where you grew up (e.g., if you were born on May 15, 1990, and lived in 10470, you should write 05159070 on your paper).