

PHILOSOPHY 330

Fall 2020

1st Essay Assignment

Due Monday, September 21

All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font. Turn in by uploading to Laulima as either a Word file or pdf file. Use the following format to title your file: lastname Phil 330 #1.

Write a 4-5 page essay on one of the following topics:

Art and Truth in Plato and Aristotle

What does Plato find so dangerous about art in books II and III of the *Republic*, thus requiring censorship of the poets, painters, and writers of fiction? Explain Plato's theory of art as *mimēsis* as presented in Book X of the *Republic*? Why is art thus "thrice removed from the truth" according to Plato? How does Aristotle respond to Plato's indictment of art in the *Poetics*? What do you think about this difference between Plato and Aristotle on the relationship between art and truth?

Tragedy, Poetry, and Music in Plato and Aristotle

Why does Plato find music and poetry so dangerous in the *Republic*? What does Plato find wrong with the art of the poet and rhapsode in the *Ion*? Explain what Plato means in the *Ion* when he suggests that the problem with poetry is like what happens with the "stone of Heraclea"? Explain how Aristotle expresses a more positive view of Tragedy in the *Poetics*? Why does Aristotle find Tragedy more philosophical than history? What does Aristotle mean when he says that the aim of Tragedy lies in a catharsis of pity and fear? What do you think about this difference between Plato and Aristotle on the value of music and poetry, and the art form of Tragedy?

Grading

Maximum Points

1) Writing

Grammar and spelling, composition and style. Your essay should be well organized. There should be an introduction, development of a theme, and a conclusion.

20 _____

2) Philosophical Content

The essay should reflect an adequate understanding of the texts. Your exposition of the text should include *at least two quotations* from the primary text material. All quotes should be properly marked within the text and must include a reference to the text cited.

50 _____

3) Commentary

Your own thoughtful reflections on the topic.

30 _____