

PHILOSOPHY 320

Social & Political Philosophy

Fall 2024

Short essay assignment #1

Due Monday, September 9

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.

Write a short reflection (2-3 pages) on one of the following:

- 1) Explain Plato's view, expressed in the Republic, how justice in the State mirrors justice in the soul. How does this lead to the devolution of government, explained in Book VIII, from aristocracy to timocracy to democracy? How does democracy then break down into tyranny? Why does Socrates think that there will be no deliverance from unrest and war for cities and for the human race until philosophers become kings or kings become philosophers? What do you think about this?

- 2) For Aristotle what is the nature of the end for which a city-state exists? How does Aristotle distinguish between three different right forms of constitutions and three perversions of these forms? What advice does Aristotle give about making democracy work? What do you think about this?