

PHI 171 – PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY – FALL 2017 – ASGN. #3 – DUE OCT 18

Hand in a paper copy in class and submit an electronic copy on the course website.

This assignment asks you to compose a philosophical dialogue. This is not a mere succession of conflicting opinions. It is an exchange between two interlocutors who disagree with one another, and offer reasons and arguments in support of their claims. Each interlocutor strives to offer the best arguments in support of her position, and at the same time, raise the best objections to the arguments of the other side.

Option 1: Compose a dialogue between two characters. One character is you and the other is Socrates, Thrasymachus, Glaucon or Adimantus. Pick a character you are going to disagree with. The topic will be the definition of justice. You will defend your own definition and the other character his own definition. Use Plato's *Republic* as source of inspiration but feel free to bring in your own ideas.

Option 2: Come up with your topic and characters for a philosophical dialogue.

NB: You must discuss your ideas with me, through e-mail or in person, before you start writing your dialogue. My office hours are M-W 2-3PM in Carman 365. Prerequisite for this assignment is having completed all the previous assignments.

Desiderata:

- 5-7 page long
- focuses on a well-defined philosophical question
- demonstrates independent and creative thinking
- elegantly and clearly written
- consists of a detailed, precise and well-reasoned discussion
- contains clear definitions of the terminology used
- contains the strongest arguments in defense of a thesis
- contains the strongest objections against the same thesis