

I. Metaphysics and knowledge: for those who responded to the first topic for papers 1 & 2.

Revise your second essay in response to the comments given. In particular, revise your introduction to include (briefly) how Aristotle's view on the nature of the universe and the possibility of our knowledge of the universe is a response to the presocratics and Plato, and your thesis as to whether or Aristotle's view is an improvement over his predecessors.

This third paper shall contain a new section, 2 to 3 1/2 pages in length. This section should pull material from the *Physics*, the *Metaphysic*, and Irwin's *Classical Thought* in order to present Aristotle's view on the nature of the universe and how we may be said to know it.

What are forms, on Aristotle's understanding, and where do they exist? How do forms stand with relation to other knowable things – do they stand alone (i.e., there are no other knowable things)? Are there things other than forms we may know? If yes, then what? Are these other things important to know? Why? How does Aristotle view his own understanding as a natural development from the views of his predecessors? Compare Aristotle's views on the forms explicitly with Plato's to bring out their similarities and differences. Also compare Aristotle on the possibility of empirical knowledge (knowledge of the material world) with Plato, to bring out their differences.

Recall the view you supported in your second essay. Between that view and Aristotle's, which do you endorse now? Why? Do defend your answer.

II. Knowledge and justice: for those who responded to the second topic for papers 1 & 2.

Revise your second essay in response to the comments given. In particular, revise your introduction to include (briefly) how Aristotle's understanding of virtue enables his supporters to embody real moral goodness. Identify your thesis of whether you find Aristotle's view an improvement over whomever you defended in your second paper.

This third paper shall contain a new section, 2 to 3 1/2 pages in length. This section should pull material from the *Nichomachean Ethics* and Irwin's *Classical Thought* in order to fully explicate Aristotle's view on the nature of virtue.

Why does Aristotle begin with questioning about the highest good? Why is it important to know, and what is it important that there be such a good? For moral goodness, what is the highest good, and why?

How does Aristotle envision people going about achieving a virtuous or good life? Discuss the Doctrine of the Golden Mean, and how the virtuous act stands midway between the vices of excess and deficiency. Use an example or two to make yourself clear.

Is it possible on Aristotle's account to be a virtuous person and yet perform no virtuous act? Why? Is it possible on Aristotle's account to be set for moral goodness for life, once an act of highest virtuosity has been achieved? Why? Why does Aristotle ultimately find the highest happiness to rest in the contemplative life? Why on one hand would Plato agree, but on another hand, would Plato disagree?

Finally, carefully discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the view you defended in paper 2, and how they stand with respect to Aristotle's. Whose view do you believe is superior now? Thoughtfully defend your answer.

Instructions: This paper should be from 9 to 12 pages in length. The margins will be 1 inch all around. You should use a standard font such as Times New Roman or Helvetica, in a size of 12. The paper should be double-spaced. A cover sheet will be the sole location where your name appears.

After your cover sheet, include both the graded copy of your second paper, and your third and final paper. Although I will not be grading this third essay with the prospect of raising your second paper's grade, I will include as part of my evaluation improvements made from your second essay.

You are encouraged to make direct reference to citations from our texts (Irwin, Baird and Kaufmann), but you should not use any long, block, quotes. Do not use material – directly or indirectly – from the internet, period. If you are keen to use a secondary source not on our reading list, clear it with me first.

For further information such as writing tips, grading guidelines, the late policy and my policy on typos and grammar, see the syllabus.