PHIL 410/610        Spring 2016
Plato’s Republic

PAPER TOPICS
(paper two)

Write a five- or six-page essay in answer to one of the following questions:

1. Is Socrates right that virtue is wisdom? Why or why not? (Explain his account and his argument for it in your answer.)

2. Explain (or, explain and evaluate) Socrates’ claim that the person who turns around from becoming to being will have all the virtues. (Support your interpretation by referring to and explaining the text. If you choose to evaluate his claim, give reasons in support of your evaluation.)

3. Is Socrates’ account of the virtues in the Republic adequate? Why or why not? (Explain his account in your answer.)

4. What is Socrates’ final account of the virtues in the Republic? (Explain all his accounts in your answer.)

5. How are the three accounts of the soul in the Republic related? (Explain each account in your answer.)

6. In sections of the Republic we have read and talked about, what role does the city play in the development of virtue? (Support your interpretations and claims by referring to and explaining the text.)

Due date: Thursday, March 3, 2016

Essays will be word-processed or typed, double-spaced, in 10- or 12-point type. They will have a title and a title page. They will be in finished form and without errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation. All quotations will be accompanied by reference in parentheses. Long quotations will be indented.

Essays should frequently refer to and quote texts considered. Be as concrete as you can. Quotations can help with concreteness. Examples can help. Most quotations should be explained in detail.

Be sure you essay has a thesis and that the thesis answers the essay question you have chosen. If you answer an evaluative question, remember to give reasons for your evaluation. In other words, be sure to argue for your evaluation rather than simply asserting it.