

Third Essay Topics

Philosophy 25A

Write an essay of **3–4 pages** on **one** of the following topics.

1. In the *Protagoras*, Socrates argues for the principle that “no one willingly goes toward those things which he holds to be bad, or chooses those things willingly” (358e). Drawing on the text in 352b–358e, explain how Socrates argues for this principle using the case of an akratic person who “knowing the bad to be bad, nevertheless does that very thing . . . because he is driven and overwhelmed by pleasure” (355a–b). Evaluate his argument for this principle. How does Socrates think we should describe the mistake akratic people make? Is this description plausible?
2. In *Republic* IV, Plato argues that reason and appetite are different parts of the soul on the basis of the observation that “some thirsty people sometimes refuse to drink” (439c). Reconstruct and evaluate his argument for this distinction between reason and appetite, drawing on the text in 436a–439e. Why does Plato think it is important that “the object of thirst as such is, in the nature of things, simply drink as such” (439a)? Consider what this claim implies about ‘thirsty people who don’t wish to drink’ and how it affects the status of Plato’s conclusion.

Formatting: Your paper must be double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins. Your title should be in bold. At the top of your paper, include only your student ID number. You should also use your student ID number as the name of the file when you turn in your essay. Remember to cite the text using the Stephanus pagination.

Deadline: Your essay is due to Lindsay by **10AM on Monday, June 29**. Please turn in your essay *both* via email and via turnitin.com.