**Assignment 4: Plato, *Republic*: the images of the sun, line, and cave (*Readings*, pp. 203-210)**

The famous simile of the cave appears in the middle of the *Republic*, a dialogue in which Plato presents his readers with the constitution of an ideal (city-)state, called Kallipolis (i.e. Fair-city). The simile of the cave builds upon two other similes, i.e. that of the sun (about the Good as the ultimate metaphysical principle) and the line (about various types of knowledge and their objects).

1. *The simile of the sun (Readings, pp. 203-205) gives us an impression of the Form of the Good and its function(s). What do we learn from this simile about the Form of the Good?*
2. *The simile of the line (Readings, pp. 205-206) distinguishes between different forms of knowledge. Which are these forms of knowledge?*
3. *How should we picture the cave? Try to make a schematic drawing of the cave (it need not be a work of art; just a simple schematic sketch will do.*
4. *What do the various elements of the simile represent (e.g. the prisoners, the cave itself, its shadows etc.)?*
5. *How do the similes of the sun and the line relate to the simile of the cave?*
6. *What could be the political message of the cave?*