

**The Human Situation**  
**Team Omega**  
**Fall Semester 2010**  
**Lecture Paper**

**Instructions**

For the Lecture Paper, you will write a 4-page analysis (double-spaced, 12-point font) on one of the prompts listed below. You should rely on your own thinking and arguments and not use secondary (critical) sources.

Papers will be due on **Monday, 15 November** before Lecture begins. Submit a hard copy to your instructor, and submit a file of your paper to turnitin.com. Late papers will be marked down 3 points each day.

**Prompts**

1. In both *Assemblywomen* and *The Republic*, the establishment of the best city requires the overturning of current law. How do Plato and Aristophanes differ in the nature, purpose, and outcome of that proposed transformation?
2. In Book VIII Socrates argues that democracy will inevitably deteriorate into tyranny. Is this description of democracy (especially at 555b-562a, but see 492a-495 and 499e-501a) consistent with the portrait of Athens in either Thucydides or Aristophanes? In your argument, point to specific incidents in one of these texts (for example, the Funeral Oration, the Melian Dialogue, the Sicilian Expedition in Thucydides or Praxagora's speech in Aristophanes).
3. How does the Socrates that we see in *The Republic* differ from the ideal philosophical type he describes in Books V-VII?
4. Describe how the analogy of the cave and the existence of ideal forms fits into the overall structure of Socrates' argument in *The Republic*. Could Socrates do without the forms and still present his analysis of justice? Why or why not?
5. In Book IX, Socrates attempts to answer the challenge laid out by Glaucon and Adeimantus in Book II. Describe the argument Socrates lays out. What assumptions does he rely upon? Do you find this argument plausible? Why or why not?
6. Consider the role that the body plays in the *Book of Esther* and in Plato's *Republic*, paying special attention to food and sex. Do these two books have a different vision of justice? How does that vision have to do with their ideas about the body?