

First Paper Topic
Philosophy 1
Spring, 2017

Due: May 2, 2017, in class

Write an essay of roughly 5 pages on the following topic. Use the original writings of the philosopher as found in the text as the basis of your work. Be sure to quote the text whenever you attribute a claim to the philosopher. Papers not turned in on the day due will be penalized progressively, with the penalties increasing each two working days overdue. Papers should be double-spaced with ample room in the margins for comments.

Aristotle argued that happiness is the highest good for human beings. Your task is to reconstruct Aristotle's argument for this philosophical thesis. Be sure to show what are the premises of the argument and what follows from these premises. Note what philosophical theses the argument depends upon. Then comment on how persuasive you find the argument to be. Do the premises support the conclusion? Are the premises themselves plausible? If they involve philosophical theses, how might those theses be supported? Does the argument leave out anything that should be in it?