

A3 and A3b: Comparative essay

A3 (polished first draft) due October 30 at the start of class. A3b (revised version) due November 9 at the start of class. Submit both versions to Moodle. Length should be approximately 1200 words. Any reasonable formatting is acceptable.

Purpose: compare two of the texts we read, relating them to a broader theme of the course.

Choose any **two** of the following works: Plato's *Republic*, Augustine's *City of God*, Dante's *Inferno*, Shakespeare's *Tempest*.

Option A: The Divine

Compare conceptions of the divine in the world, as represented in the two works you chose. Narrow the aspects of the divine to make a manageable argument.

Option B: Justice

Compare the idea of justice, as represented in the two works you chose. Narrow the aspects of justice to make a manageable argument.

Suggestions: In a comparative paper, you must compare representations of an idea point by point. In preparing to write, define the term you are working with in each of your texts. Narrow down the parts of the texts you will discuss to specific passages. Then note comparisons and contrasts between the two definitions. Make lists if that helps. Finally, draw up a provisional argument or thesis. Then organize the essay by points that prove your argument. Discuss both texts under each argumentative point. Do not write half the essay about one text and then the other half about the second text. Quote liberally from the text to prove your points.

Acknowledgment: this assignment is based on an assignment originally developed by Prof. Carol Ann Johnston.