

Topics for Graduate Student Papers

Part of a graduate education is learning to find your way to your own choice of paper topic. So we're not going to give you a list of topics to write on. However, we'd like you to follow these guidelines:

- Philosophers have been writing about Plato for well over two thousand years, and consequently it's far too easy to reinvent the wheel. To help you invent new wheels, papers *must* directly address a contribution to the secondary literature.
- The easiest (and default) form of such a topic is: "So-and-so's Interpretation of Plato is a Misreading." Of course other sorts of point are allowed.

If you are going to argue that so-and-so's interpretation is a misreading, two additional constraints apply.

- First, your paper must begin by making as persuasive a case as you can for the virtues of the interpretation to be attacked, before you show why it is mistaken nonetheless.
 - Second, you cannot use a second 'So-and-so's Interpretation' (i.e. the view of another scholar in the field) to attack the first interpretation, unless you also explain the weaknesses of this second interpretation and why, despite these weaknesses, it is nevertheless better than the first one.
- Any item on the class Readings page is fair game. For other targets, please check with the instructors first.
 - Read "Writing Your Philosophy Paper: Common Problems to Avoid" (online, accessible from the *Requirements* page).
 - Please cite Plato by dialogue and Stephanus numbers.

Good working!