

DUE: October 24 – in your TF's mailbox (Building 250) by 3:00 p.m.
(After 3:00 pm, paper is one day late; Monday after 3:00=3days late)
Late papers will be reduced 1/3 grade for each day late (i.e. B to B-).
Papers must be submitted in hard copy (not electronically).

LENGTH: 1200-1500 words (= approximately 4-5 pages with 1-inch margins and a 12 point font (i.e. Courier or Times or Palatino, etc. Use the font on this assignment sheet as a guide.)

Your essay should state and defend a clear argument, with a thesis and specific support from the text and optionally from other assigned reading and/or lectures. Secondary sources should not be consulted without prior approval from your Teaching Fellow (and are not encouraged). All citations from the primary text should be properly cited, including either a bibliography or bibliographic footnote. Line numbers and page citations should be included in the text.

In accordance with IHUM guidelines, written work will be judged by the following criteria: (1) the clarity and insight of the thesis; (2) the development of an argument which supports this thesis through clear and succinct evidence; (3) the presentation of original thought on the topic; and (4) correct grammar, style, spelling and vocabulary.

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are expected to observe the Honor Code established and enforced by the students of Stanford University. The Honor Code is available at:

www.stanford.edu/dept/vpsa/judicialaffairs/honorcode.htm

You are responsible for understanding the University rules regarding academic integrity; you should familiarize yourself with the code if you have not already done so. In brief, conduct prohibited by the Honor Code includes all forms of academic dishonesty, among them copying from another's exam, unpermitted collaboration, and representing as one's own work the work of another (including but not limited to undocumented secondary sources, work produced by another person, and information available electronically). Suspected violations of the Honor Code will be investigated and, if necessary, turned over to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

The best way to avoid the temptation to plagiarize is to plan your time carefully and develop your ideas in writing through multiple drafts and revision. Do not wait until the last minute to seek help with your work. If you want to use the Writing Center, make an appointment as soon as possible. You can also consult with your Teaching Fellow.

Choose ONE of the following three topics for your first paper.

1. In Diotima's speech the condition of pregnancy is crucial to the doctrine of love that she expounds. Analyze how this image works in terms of the dialogue as a whole. Pregnancy is a particularly feminine condition, but in *The Symposium* it is applied predominantly to males. Argue whether the feminine thus takes on a more powerful role in *The Symposium* OR whether the feminine is being appropriated by and for a masculine discourse. Be sure to include specific references to the text and to explain clearly your readings.

2. As we learned in lecture, Plato's philosophy rejects the materialism of its predecessors; however, talk of the human body and of the physical aspects of love pervades the *Symposium*. Argue whether or not love can be completely detached from the corporeal by using the speeches of two carefully chosen *Symposium* participants as evidence. Remember that you are making this argument based on your interpretation of the text (and you are not contributing your own independent view on this issue). Support your argument with specific textual references from your chosen speeches, and be sure to consider the place these speeches occupy in the dialogue as a whole.

3. Unlike most of Plato's dialogues, *The Symposium* is presented as a series of connected but individual performances rather than as a relentless Socratic questioning (as in the segment between Agathon and Socrates). Consider how the dramatic form of the dialogue relates to its expressed content. Develop an argument about the relationship between the rhetorical effect of the dramatic form and the ideas expressed through it. Support your argument with careful references to the text.