

Paper Assignment. Due Weds, April 24.

- (a) Choose one of the following topics and respond to it in an essay of no less than 5 pages and no more than 7 pages (not including title page and bibliography). Your paper should be typed, 10- or 12-point, double-spaced and spell-checked. Please submit your paper to the link in the Brightspace Assignments folder.
- (b) Your essay should conform to the Paper Guidelines available in the Paper folder in the Contents section of Brightspace. *Make Absolutely Certain that you have read and understood these guidelines before you attempt to begin writing your essay.* If you do not follow these guidelines, the grade for your essay may suffer!
- (c) All papers must include a bibliography with at least 2 entries (at least one of these should be from the list of required class readings). Your essay must use this bibliography as a source to cite for all claims and quotes you attribute to authors. If you do not include a bibliography that you cite for claims and quotes, the grade for your essay may suffer! Lecture notes should NOT be listed or referred to in your essay. Lecture notes merely summarize topics in the texts and related material. Similarly, online lecture notes from other sources should not be listed or referred to. Be extremely careful of other types of online sources that have not been vetted by me. If you are in doubt as to the reliability of an online source please check with me before using it.
- (d) Please make use of Tandon's Writing Center if you have trouble with spelling or grammar. If your essay contains so many spelling/grammatical errors that a reader cannot understand what your claims are, then your grade may suffer. Information about Tandon's Writing Center can be found at <https://cas.nyu.edu/ewp/writing-center.html>
- (e) *Late paper policy:* There are no extensions on the due date. Late papers will be accepted but will be given an initial penalty of a third of a grade point, and a further penalty of a third of a grade point for every period of 7 days after the due date. *Example:* An A paper turned in 1-7 days late will receive an A-. An A paper turned in 8-14 days late will receive a B+. An A paper turned in 15-21 days late will receive a B, etc. *Under no circumstances will late papers be accepted after the date of the final.*

1. Compare the epistemologies of Plato and Aristotle; *i.e.*, what do they take knowledge to consist in, and how is it obtained? How are their views on these subjects similar? How are they different? Which view do you think is most similar to contemporary notions of scientific knowledge? (To answer this last question you might have to distinguish between different notions of scientific knowledge found in different fields of science.)
2. Yates (1964) believes the talismanic magic described by Ficino in Book 3 of *De vita* draws heavily on the god-making passages from the *Asclepius*. Copenhaver (1986) believes this claim is overblown and that Ficino looked primarily to Plotinus and other Neoplatonic writers for the philosophical basis of his magic. Summarize the arguments given by Yates and Copenhaver and decide for yourself who makes the stronger case. (See the course website for Copenhaver 1986 "Renaissance Magic and Neoplatonic Philosophy: *Ennead 4.3-5* in Ficino's *De vita coelitus comparanda*".)
3. How does Forman's approach to medicine compare with those of Galen, Paracelsus, and Ficino?
4. What aspects of Galileo's views on motion are critical of Aristotle. What aspects of Galileo's views remain Aristotelian?