

PHILOSOPHY 100: PLATO
Fall 2008

SECOND PAPER

Paper due: Tuesday, November 25, at or before the beginning of lecture. If you complete the paper early, you may place a copy in my department mailbox anytime during business hours (on the 7th floor of HSS, across from the elevators).

Requirements: The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins (or thereabouts), 12 point font, and no longer than 2500 words. Please put your name and word count on a separate title page and don't put your name anywhere else (this is to facilitate blind grading). The pages must be stapled together (no covers please). *Papers that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.*

Turnitin: An electronic copy of the paper must be uploaded on the Turnitin website before Noon on Tuesday, November 25. In order to upload the paper, you must use **class ID number=2456428** and **enrollment password=kalon**. *Papers that do not meet this requirement will receive a grade of F.*

Topic: Please answer the following questions *in your own words* in the shape of an essay.

In the *Meno* and in the *Phaedo*, Socrates claims that the human soul exists before birth. How does Socrates argue for this claim in the *Meno*? Leaving aside the Cyclical Argument, how does Socrates argue for this claim in the *Phaedo*? Is the *Phaedo* argument superior to the *Meno* argument? If so, why, and how? If not, why not? Does either one of these arguments establish that the human soul is eternal (that is, has existed for all time and will continue to exist for all time)? If so, how? If not, why not? What, on reflection, is Plato's strongest argument for the human soul's immortality (i.e., its imperishability once it has come into existence) in the *Phaedo*? Why is it the *strongest* argument? How persuasive do you find this argument? Explain.