Choose one of these options.

Option 1

Among the characteristics of philosophy as a discipline is that it investigates conceptual questions rather than empirical questions. Explain this distinction and use some examples (different than those used in the class discussion) to illustrate it. Another trait of philosophy is that the study of its history is part of learning this area of knowledge. Explain why this is the case. Go beyond the arguments used in class.

Option 2

In defending his decision to accept the verdict of the court rather than escape prison and go into exile (in the *Crito*), does Socrates ever implicitly or explicitly consider the possibility of civil disobedience? Note that Socrates never addresses civil disobedience in the dialogue. Hence in discussing this question, you will need to do a bit of interpretation. If you think that Socrates does consider civil disobedience, explain. If not, why does he reject this option? In discussing this issue, make sure that you give a clear statement of civil disobedience (but don’t rely solely upon a dictionary definition).

Option 3

In the *Crito*, Socrates several times compares the state to the parents of the citizens of the state. Do you agree with this comparison? Would many contemporary citizens of the United States use such a metaphor? What does Socrates’ use of this metaphor tell us about the role of the state in ancient Athens and the role of the state in contemporary U.S.? What is your position on the role of the state in the life of its citizens (not necessary, central, necessary but not good, necessary and good)?

Due: **Friday, September 7**

2-3 pages (absolutely no more); normal font size (12 pt.); 1 inch borders; double space; no cover page; place your name, the date, and the name of the course in the upper left or right corner; header on pages other than the first page with your name and the page number; use the MLA parenthetical style for references

A note on using online resources: Please remember that online resources must be held to the same high standards of scholarly integrity as those found in professional journals or in books. The problem is the scholarly integrity of online sources is difficult to assess. Unlike journals and books which are refereed and edited, no one is in charge of cyberspace. The search engine can return a listing from the Yale University English Department alongside a listing from your Aunt Millie. In general, restrict your use of online resources to sites affiliated with a university or with a refereed journal.

You might begin by trying these sites.
Guide to Philosophy on the Internet → http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm
Episteme Links → http://www.epistemelinks.com/