You have two options for this paper. Choose one.

1. At first glance, Plato’s scheme for communism in the Republic seems repulsive and elements of it appear to be unethical. But does his distinction between privatizing tendencies in our lives and a sense of the common good have some merit? Discuss, and in the course of your discussion, give a brief overview of Plato’s communism. Make sure you devote at least half or more of the paper to your own reflections.

2. Plato’s Republic has been accused of being a totalitarian system. Discuss this accusation using some of the ideas of C.C.W. Taylor (“Plato’s Totalitarianism,” in Plato 2: Ethics, Politics, Religion, and the Soul, ed. Gail Fine (NY: Oxford University Press, 1999). You are also welcome to use some of the ideas of Karl Popper (referred to by Taylor). Do you agree or disagree with the charge? Defend your position.

Due: Monday, October 8, 2007

2-3 pages (absolutely no more); normal font size (12 pt.); 1 inch borders; double space; no cover page or folder; 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 a professional journal or in a book. 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.