**PO65502: The Question of Justice**

**Department of Political Science**

**Boston College**

**Spring 2013**

Essay Assignments

**First Paper (answer one):**

1. Examine Polus’ arguments in light of Callicles’ criticisms of him. At what points does Polus fall into error, according to Callicles? Are these objections reasonable? Could Polus defend himself on these points?
2. Examine [President Obama’s Second Inaugural Address](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Barack_Obama%27s_Second_Inaugural_Address) in terms of the treatment of rhetoric in the *Gorgias*. Who would be more likely to have written that speech, a student of Gorgias or a student of Socrates? Why? Be sure to support your arguments with numerous references to Plato.

**Second Paper**

1. Compare Pericles’ Funeral Oration to Lincoln’s *Gettysburg Address*. For the purposes of this paper, you do not need to provide citations for the *Gettysburg Address*.

**Third Paper**

1. Whose account of human history has proven more prophetic, Thucydides’ or Kant’s? Is there hope for progress? Compare Thucydides’ Archaeology (1.2-18) and his account of the Corcyrean civil war (3.82-84) with Kant’s First Supplement to *Perpetual Peace* to make your argument. If you wish to bring in evidence from other parts of the readings please consult me first.