

ASSIGNMENT 2

due Wednesday, September 12

Instructions

By Friday, September 7:

- Read the biographical information on Aristotle on page 176 of Cahn.
- Read the first two pages of *Categories*, through “Differences Between...” on page 179.
- In *Physics*, read “Cause and Chance” on page 186, until the section “Luck and Chance” on page 187.
- In *Metaphysics*, read from “The Platonists Have the Wrong Conception of a Universal Science,” on page 217, through “The Relation of Platonic Forms to Their Essences” on page 222.

Reading Aristotle is *hard*. Do your best, and rely on TTT and lectures for guidance.

By Monday, September 10

- Read Chapter 1 of TTT. The section “Infinity and Cardinality” is optional.
- Look at the handout on proofs that I will circulate in class and put on the web page.

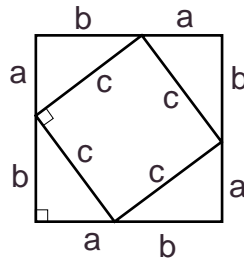
By Wednesday, September 12:

- In Cahn, read the biography of Anselm on page 306,
- and then read the prologue and Chapters 2-5 of his *Proslogion*.
- Read the biography of Aquinas on page 329,
- and then read the complete text of “Question II” of his *Summa Theologica*, on page 339.
- Finally, read the biography of Spinoza on page 414,
- and look over the first two pages of *The Ethics*. (Focus on the form of the arguments; the details are close to incomprehensible.)

Turn in the homework assignment at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 12.

Homework assignment

1. What example does Aristotle give in *Physics* to show that one thing may have different causes? (S)?
2. TTT, page 42, study question 1. (M)
3. TTT, page 42, study question 3. (S)
4. TTT, study question 1 on page 15 (S)
5. The following is another proof of the Pythagorean theorem. Consider the diagram below



- a. Argue that the area of the outer square is $(a+b)^2$.
 - b. Argue that the area of the outer square is also $2ab + c^2$. (Remember that the area of a right triangle with sides a and b is $ab/2$.)
 - c. Set these two expressions equal to each other, and show that this implies $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.
6. On the one hand, Anselm argues that God cannot be thought not to exist. On the other hand, a fool may claim that God does not exist, and so, apparently, think it. How does Anselm resolve this difficulty? (M)

Thought questions

1. In *Categories*, Aristotle distinguishes between things said “of” a subject, and things said “in” a subject. As best you can, explain the distinction, with some examples.
2. Explain Aristotle’s distinction between primary and secondary substance.
3. TTT, study questions 2 and 4 on pages 42-43.
4. Give some examples to illustrate Aristotle’s four causes.
5. Summarize the differences between Plato’s and Aristotle’s views of knowledge. What are Aristotle’s criticisms of Plato’s philosophy, and how does his own theory avoid them?
6. TTT, study questions 2- 5 on pages 15-16.