**WEEK 13: WRITING AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT**

ARISTOTLE AND THE VIRTUOUS SOCIETY

Aristotle, the fourth century BCE Greek philosopher, opined on all manner of topics—human nature, aesthetics, natural philosophy (what we, today, call science) and, as evidenced in the title and subject matter of this week’s website reading, politics.

His book (though it would not have been presented as a book in his time) *Politics*, where he focuses on human communities, is the companion volume to his *Nicomachean Ethics*, which focused on how man could live the most fulfilling life possible. Aristotle’s answer to that question is, in a word, to live a virtuous life. By virtuous, he meant, more or less, living by a high moral standard. In *Politics*, he expands on the idea of virtue to include society itself. After reading, the excerpt from *Politics* on the website, briefly explain (up to 200 words), what the virtuous society would be, according to Aristotle.

I understand Aristotle’s thinking and writings can be difficult to unravel and understand. You may have to read the excerpt more than once—and definitely with care—to come to answer. As with earlier assignments, I am not looking so much for *the* right answer but to your best stab at an answer that we can discuss in class. Do your best.

**Please submit the assignment via Blackboard by the beginning of class on Tuesday, April 27.**

Be prepared to discuss your answer in class.