

Reading Assignment 7: Plato's Theory of the Forms

Required Readings: John M. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson. *Complete works*. Hackett Publishing, 1997.

- *Republic*. Book VII. Lines 514 - 530d.

Questions:

- What do the prison dwelling and area above the cave respectively symbolize?
- Explain in no more than a paragraph why Plato thinks mathematicians ought not speak of “applying” or “squaring” when proving geometric theorems.
- What mathematical subjects does Socrates advocate that all rulers ought to study, and in which order ought they be studied?

References

John M. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson. *Complete works*. Hackett Publishing, 1997.