

ASSIGNMENT 1: *THE MATRIX* and *PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE*

Resources:

Animated version of Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*: <https://youtu.be/dlmsULpgjI>

Ted-Ed: Plato's Allegory of the Cave - Alex Gendler: <https://youtu.be/1RWOpQXTItA>

The Matrix. 1999. Netflix

Purpose:

This course is all about examining belief systems:

- Why do people believe certain things?
- How do you know if something is "true"?
- How do we decide if something is "the right thing to do"?
- Why do we want to "get to the bottom of things"?

Both *The Matrix* and *The Allegory of the Cave* deal with a basic element of philosophy: **metaphysics**. Big word, but it just refers to **how we know what is true and real in the world**. (Remember: There was a time when you were TOTALLY convinced Santa Claus was real!) SPOILER ALERT!!! He's not. (Or is he..?)

This assignment is about you interacting with these ideas. It's not about "getting it right"—there is no "right." But you MUST SHOW ME THAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THESE IDEAS.

Your Assignment:

- Complete all questions in Part A and B below. Use examples from "the real world" (ours) to help explain.
- You are encouraged to share ideas but EVERYONE MUST SUBMIT THEIR OWN RESPONSES FOR QUESTIONS 1-4
- For questions 1-4 you can handwrite/print or type but make sure I can read it.
- Include a cover page

ASSIGNMENT

PART A | QUESTIONS (Individual responses)

1. Compare the "matrix" in *The Matrix* to the cave in *The Allegory of the Cave*. How are they similar? (Consider the purpose, people, and symbols in each). **(15 marks)**
2. Morpheus offers Neo a choice: "You take the blue pill - the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill - you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes." Explain which you would choose and why. **(15 marks)**
3. Cypher chooses to leave the resistance and go back to the Matrix. He doesn't want to live the truth anymore, because it is too ugly and painful. He decides that he prefers the pleasurable lies of the Matrix. What's wrong with the Matrix, if what we feel is pleasurable? Is it better in some ways to live in the Matrix than to see things as they really are? This is what Cypher concludes – is he wrong? Is it true that "ignorance is bliss?" **(15 marks)**

4. Choose a song that remind you of *The Matrix* or *The Allegory of the Cave* or any combination of both. Paraphrase the song or choose some appropriate lyrics and explain why you chose it in 3-5 sentences. Be prepared to share your song with the class. **(15 marks)**

PART B | CHOICE BOARD (you may work alone or with a partner for this section)

5. Create a visual that reflects a major theme (or idea) of either *The Allegory of the Cave* or *The Matrix* (or both). This may take the form of:
 - a. Collage
 - b. Poster
 - c. Comic strip
 - d. Mind map
 - e. FakeBook page (complete profile with pic and some wall posts)
 - f. Movie poster (not the one for the actual film—must be original)
 - g. Original sketch/drawing/painting/sculpture
 - h. Other? (Just clear it with me)

(40 marks)

WE WILL HAVE 4 PERIODS TO WORK ON THIS IN CLASS. DUE DATE IS: _____