

## INITIAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Philosophy 167

due September 16

Put yourself in the position of an instructor of astronomy in 1600. In a short (2 to 3 page) paper, (1) describe each of the three "chief world systems" -- the Ptolemaic, the Copernican, and the Tychoenic -- in general terms for your students; (2) identify the fundamental points on which they differ; (3) for each of these fundamental points, explain briefly why there is a problem in using observations of geocentric latitude or longitude to decide which of the three systems is correct; and (4) for each of these fundamental points, indicate what sort of observations, if any, could, at least in principle, reveal which of the three systems is correct. You can think of this exercise as an initial attempt to state the evidence problem posed by the three systems, as understood in 1600.