The goal of this assignment is to introduce you to scholarly criticism of mythology. You will read an essay by a contemporary scholar (Douglas Cairns) that presents a critique of Euripides’ play Medea in light of Greek ideas about marriage and women’s roles in society.

DO NOT leave this assignment until the last minute. You will need ample time to read Cairns’ essay and think about your response to it.

Instructions:
1. Read the scholarly essay “Medea: Feminism or Misogyny?” by Douglas Cairns (2014) posted under Course Documents. Take notes on 1) the arguments Cairns cites for why this play could be interpreted as either feminist or misogynist and 2) the specific passages from the play that he cites for evidence of his interpretation.

2. Go into the Discussion Board for your Learning Group and create a thread that responds to EITHER Prompt 1 OR Prompt 2 (DO NOT respond to both prompts). You will not be able to see the postings of other group members until you have posted your own response.

3. Respond thoughtfully and accurately to ONE of the following prompts:

**Prompt 1: Euripides’ Medea as a feminist play**
Part 1: In about 2 sentences, summarize in your own words ONE example of how Cairns argues for the perversion of marriage in Euripides’ Medea.
Part 2: In about 5 sentences, discuss in your own words ONE passage from Euripides’ Medea used in Cairns’ essay and ONE possible interpretation of this passage that could be used to argue that Medea is a feminist play.

**Prompt 2: Euripides’ Medea as a misogynist play**
Part 1: In about 2 sentences, summarize in your own words ONE example of how Cairns argues for the perversion of marriage in Euripides’ Medea.
Part 2: Part 2: In about 5 sentences, discuss in your own words ONE passage from Euripides’ Medea used in Cairns’ essay and ONE possible interpretation of this passage that could be used to argue that Medea is a misogynist play.

**Grading Rubric:**
1. If your response shows 1) comprehension of the essay and prompt, 2) serious attention to the assignment, and 3) ability to summarize an argument in your own words, you will receive full credit (3 points) for the assignment.
2. If your posting is shorter than the required length, is missing some information, or does not demonstrate sufficient comprehension of either the essay or the prompt, you will receive partial credit (1-2.8 points).
3. If your posting demonstrates no effort to respond to the prompt accurately, you will receive no credit (0 points).