

Classics 148, Fall 2014
Final Paper Assignment

Your final paper for this course is due online under Assignments *by 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 11.*

*please submit your paper as an uploaded Word document; DO NOT type or paste your paper into the response field for the assignment. It is worth 8% of your final grade for the course.

The goal for this assignment is to revise and expand one of the four short papers you have already submitted for the course. This exercise will allow you to:

- 1) respond to the comments that your instructor gave you on the shorter paper.
- 2) strengthen your claims from the shorter paper by bringing in 1 to 2 more examples from your chosen text to reinforce your point in the body of your paper.
- 3) expand your introduction and add a conclusion to your paper.

Format:

Your paper should be 3 – 3.5 pages in length; double spaced; 12 pt Times New Roman font; one-inch margins; DO NOT include a lengthy header; your name and your chosen title for the paper are sufficient. Name and paper title should be displayed at the top of the paper.

Citations:

- your paper MUST include at least 2 (but no more than 4) direct citations from primary sources.
- when you cite from a primary source, your citation should be no more than 3 lines in length. Remember to cite book (if relevant) and line numbers for your passages.
- if you choose to refer to a passage that is longer than 3 lines in length, you should briefly paraphrase the content of the passage and put the line numbers in parentheses.

Sample Approaches:

Here are suggestions for ways in which you could expand your paper, using 2 previously assigned prompts:

1. *Silence permeates Euripides's Hippolytus. Find two characters who fail to verbally respond, intercede on someone's behalf, or relay the truth in a timely manner. (The characters can be humans or deities.) What are the repercussions for these silences in the Hippolytus?*

To expand your paper, start with a thesis statement that expresses your ideas about the role of silence in *Hippolytus* and how your chosen 2 characters convey this role through their speech or actions in the play. If your original paper compares the silences of Hippolytus and Phaedra, find 2 additional examples from the text that complement your original 2 examples. Use these 4 examples (2 for Hippolytus; 2 for

Phaedra) to make a strong point about the role of silence in *Hippolytus*, using the examples of these 2 characters in different parts of the play.

2. In Books 6-10 of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, there are several stories in which a god takes revenge on a mortal for an act of hubris. Choose either "Niobe and Latona" or "Erysichthon" and take a stance on the following prompt: Does Ovid suggest that the gods in your chosen story are justified in their revenge? Does the punishment fit the crime, or is the degree of the punishment too severe?

To expand your paper, start with a thesis statement about why you think Ovid includes so many stories about hubris in the *Metamorphoses*. You could think about your thesis statement as an answer to one of these questions: are these cautionary tales used to warn his readers about the just consequences of excessive pride? Or does Ovid suggest that the gods sometimes go too far in punishing mortals? Use your original argument about either "Niobe and Latona" or "Erysichthon" to support your thesis statement. Then choose ONE other story from the *Met.* to expand your point – it could be the one from the original prompt that you did not choose for the first paper, or it could be another tale, such as the story of Arachne or Pentheus. Make sure you choose an example that will help you to illustrate your stance on whether or not hubris is justly or unjustly punished in the *Met.*

Guidelines for Success:

*Make a bold thesis statement. Begin your paper with a thesis statement that alerts the reader immediately to the point you are planning to make. Your thesis statement should refer specifically to the text you are writing about.

*Choose sensible examples to cite. When you choose the evidence from the text that you are going to use to support your thesis, make sure you understand the passage in its context. Pick passages that work well together and will strengthen your argument either by complementing each other or providing an interesting contrast.

*Avoid plot summary. The goal of this paper is to engage with small passages from the original texts to make a specific point, not to summarize the plot or characters of the text to your reader.

*Avoid generalizations. You should remain as specific and "on topic" as possible throughout your paper. There is no need to make broad statements that are not directly relevant to your argument. You will be rewarded for staying focused!