Write a brief essay (4-5 pages long) on one of the following topics:

1. Cultures have ideas about the characters of ideal people, men and women. What are the most important similarities and differences between the respective ideals of biblical and Greek culture? Choose two characters from the Bible and at least one from *The Odyssey* as examples of ideal types.

2. God in the Hebrew Bible and the gods in *The Odyssey* play critical roles in what happens. Consider this passage from *The Odyssey*:

   Ah how shameless - the way these mortals blame the gods.
   From us alone, they say, come all their miseries, yes,
   but they themselves, with their own reckless ways,
   compound their pains beyond their proper share.

1.37-40

So, who is more responsible for what happens in the stories, the divine or human actors? Choose two examples in each work where a god participates in the action and answer this question, taking into account the moral principles at work in each case.

In writing your essay, play close attention to pp. 8-12, 36-38, and 56-83 (which deal with the use of commas and semicolons) of the Humanities Handbook and to discussions of this material that take place in your sections. Turn in your essay at the **end of lecture on Thursday, February 15**.

At the same time, you need to send an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com. Let us remind you that, if you use other people’s words as if they were your own, you are committing academic dishonesty, which at UCSD is severely punished. It is also very easy to discover.