

Humanities 1
Winter 2015
Professor Cox

Writing Assignment No 4 (third graded assignment)

Write an essay about one of the following topics.

1. “An American thinker once said that democracy and freedom of thought are enemies. *The Clouds* shows that he was right.” To what extent, if any, is this true?
2. “*The Clouds* is a satire, but no matter what Prof. Cox may believe, it’s not a satire of democracy. It’s a satire of a society in which the people are ruled by the ‘thinkers.’” To what extent, if any, is this true?
3. “*Oedipus the King* is basically an artistic trick. An artificial situation, devised by the playwright, produces emotions in the audience, but the story is essentially meaningless. If it has a meaning, what is it?” So, does the story have a meaning—some truth that might be valued--and if so, what is it?
4. “In *Prometheus Bound* and *Oedipus the King* there is no evidence of ‘fate.’ All we see is characters talking as if ‘fate’ of some kind existed. Our actual *knowledge* is confined to what the characters (and other beings discussed in the plays) decide to do.” To what extent, if any, is this true? Write about one of the two plays; you need not mention the other.
5. “Although the audience is obviously intended to sympathize with Prometheus, he is actually not a good model for people to follow, no matter what Aeschylus might think.” To what extent, if any, is this true?

Make your paper a real 5 pages long. Keep in mind what is in the writing handouts that have been passed out in section, especially the Thesis handout. Papers are due at the end of lecture on Friday, February 27.

Before turning in the hard copy, you must submit another copy to the antiplagiarism website Turnitin.com. **Do not use outside sources. Do not use their words. Do not use their alleged ideas. I want your words and ideas, and yours alone. As I’ve explained, they are *certain* to be better than those of any “source” you are tempted to grab. The best thing is not even to look at outside sources. SC**