Writing Assignment No. 1 (ungraded)

Write a brief essay (at least three full pages, and up to four if you need that length) on one of the following topics.

1. “The gods we find in the *Odyssey* are no better than human beings, except that they are more powerful and they live forever.” Agree or disagree with this. Focus on one of the following gods (though you may mention others): Zeus, Poseidon, Kalypso, Hermes, Athena.

2. “Homer—and apparently Professor Cox—regards Odysseus as a great leader. But he is not. After all, by the time he arrives back in Ithaka, he has lost all his followers.” Agree or disagree with this.

3. “Early in the *Odyssey*, Zeus argues that human suffering is mainly caused by humans themselves (*Odyssey*, p. 2). Considering the important roles of Athena and of Zeus himself throughout the epic, he could also have argued that human happiness is mainly caused by the gods.” Agree or disagree with this.

In writing your essay, pay close attention to pp. 4 and 8-12 of the Humanities Handbook, especially to the discussion of developing a paper from a thesis, and to discussions of the Handbook material that take place in your sections. Turn in your essay at the end of lecture on Friday, January 18.

At the same time, you need to send an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com. Instructions about this will be provided in your section.

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I want to be sure you know how serious plagiarism is, even on an ungraded first paper. Here’s the serious language of the university:

Students are expected to submit only their own work on papers and examinations. While you may discuss the assignments with others in the class, collaboration on the preparation of a paper is not permitted. Unless the assignment specifically directs otherwise, papers should be based entirely on your own study of the assigned material and not on secondary sources. Turning in someone else's work, whether from printed sources or material available electronically, as if it were your own, constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty.
The academic consequences of plagiarism range from failure for the tainted assignment to failure for the course, depending on the seriousness of the offense. All such offenses are reported to the college dean, who will impose additional administrative consequences, which can include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following: turning in another student's paper as if it were your own; collaboration with another student in writing the paper; quoting, paraphrasing, or borrowing ideas from published or unpublished material written by someone other than yourself, without specific acknowledgment of the source.

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, you should consult with your section instructor.