

Humanities 1
Professor John Hoon Lee
Winter 2015

Writing Assignment #2: Hebrew Bible and The Iliad

Choose one of the two following essay topics:

1. Ancient Greek society, like biblical society, was patriarchal. Women in both societies did not play public roles. Their activities were restricted to the household, the private world of the family. Could one say that women in these societies had power? Using the assigned readings from the Hebrew Bible and The Iliad, compare or contrast the way the authors treat the role of women.

2. The notion of free will is a fundamental concept for humans. To be able to choose to make right or wrong choices is essential to who we are. It is only then that we are able to take the right actions or learn from the wrong actions. What kind of freedom do humans have in making conscious choices (whether right or wrong)? How do the authors of the Hebrew Bible and Homer portray the theme of free will? Using the Hebrew Bible and The Iliad, write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast your two texts on the concept of free will.

Thesis: Make sure that your claim meets the standards outlined in the "Thesis" handout.

4 tests for a good thesis:

1. Is it an explanation, not a fact?
2. Can someone argue against it?
3. Is it too obvious to be worth defending?
4. Is it precise?

Evidence: Make sure your argument shows just how the textual evidence supports the thesis.

Note: In a compare OR contrast essay, you must do the following in the introductory paragraph:

- A. Introduce the theme
- B. Establish the authors' views on the given theme.
- C. Assert your own argument about the differences OR the similarities between the two texts/authors on the given theme.

Length: 4-5 pages.

Due: After lecture, Tuesday 17 February. Late papers will be penalized by the subtraction of one-third letter grade per day. Finally, don't forget turnitin.com!