

Humanities 2

Spring 2017

Professor Lerer

Paper 1

Essays are due at the end of lecture on **Thursday, April 27**. They should be four to five pages long in the usual Humanities format. Your paper should address the plausible counterargument(s) to your thesis.

Respond to one of the following prompts:

1. In describing the love between Dido and Aeneas, whose side is the Virgilian narrator on? To deal with this question, you need to evaluate the evidence on each side.

Some of the issues that might be helpful to think about in formulating your argument are: the specific language of the poem, the way in which the narrator comments on the action of human and divine characters, the rhetoric that the lovers use with each other, and the question of who seduces whom, and how?

2. "In the opening books of the *Aeneid*, Virgil presents female figures as having an obstructive influence on politics." Agree or disagree with that statement, or modify it to fit your view of the evidence in the poem.

3. Making similes says something about a character's set of values. Choose a character from the *Aeneid* who makes similes (you may choose Virgil as narrator) and show how they express his or her value set.

Before submitting a paper copy to your teaching assistant, you must submit an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website turnitin.com. Information about that will be provided by your TA in section.

Late essays will be penalized one-third of a letter grade *per day of lateness*.