

**Humanities 5—Lecture A**  
**Spring 2017**

**Essay 2: Kafka, World War 1 Poets, Eliot, & Freud**

Essays are due at the end of lecture on **Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**. The essay should be a minimum of 5 full pages in length (no more than 7) in the Humanities format\* and a counterargument is required. Evidence for your essay must be based only on the assigned texts.

Respond to one of the following prompts:

1. Freud's psychoanalysis is a powerful interpretative tool. What would psychoanalysis make of the characters in *The Metamorphosis* and *The Waste Land*? Are these texts dominated by either the erotic force of civilization or the destructive drive of aggression? Write a thesis-based essay on how Freud would read either Kafka or Eliot on one of the following themes: (a) Unconscious desires, (b) Sources and manifestations of "discontent" with civilization, or (c) Human relationships.
2. The experience of World War 1 left many soldiers with shell-shock. How did they make sense of their experiences? How did the trauma of war affect their beliefs and relationships? What happened when they came home and returned to "normal" life after the war? Write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the World War 1 poets and Eliot's *The Waste Land* on the theme of trauma. (Note: You should use multiple WW1 poets, but you do not need to use all of them.)
3. Choose your own adventure. Using one of the following authors—Kafka, Eliot, or Freud—and one author from any text you read in the Humanities sequence (Hum 1-4), write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast your two authors' views on a theme of your choice.

Requirements for writing on #3:

- a. You must develop your own prompt on a specific debatable issue. You must attach your proposed prompt to your essay when you submit it.
- b. You must receive approval for your topic from your TA in advance. Without prior approval, you will not be allowed to write on this prompt. Approval must be received by Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Submit a paper copy of your essay to your TA in a plain manila folder with your name on it. Include all your previous Humanities papers in the folder. Before submitting a paper copy in lecture, you must submit an electronic copy to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) for text-similarity review. Information about that will be distributed and discussed in section by your TA.

**Late essays.** One day late is -10% (one letter grade). Two days late, -20% (two letter grades). Papers will not be accepted after two days.

\*All handouts are available online (<http://revelle.ucsd.edu/humanities/writing-info/index.html>)