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 Odyssey, compare or contrast the way the authors treat the role of women.

2. In both the Hebrew Bible and The Odyssey, the divine power plays a crucial role in what happens. What is the effect of divine power on the moral responsibility of the human actors in these works? Using the assigned readings in the Hebrew Bible and The Odyssey, write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the idea of moral action.

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.

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!