Humanities 1  
Professor Stanley Chodorow  
Winter 2015

Un-graded Writing Exercise: Genesis

Choose one of the two following essay topics:

1. How does the Book of Genesis portray the concept of justice? Using the story about Cain and Abel, write an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement about the concept of justice as it is presented in this episode. Then add a paragraph that supports your thesis by arguing from textual evidence.

2. How does the Book of Genesis portray the relationship of human beings to God? Using Abraham’s relationship to God, write an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement about Abraham’s relationship to God. Then add a paragraph that supports your thesis by arguing from textual evidence.

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: 1 page.

Due: After lecture, Thursday 15 January. Although this assignment is ungraded, it is required.