

Humanities 1

Winter 2020

Professor Cox

Writing Assignment (ungraded)

Write a brief essay (at least two full pages, double spaced, 12-point type, and up to three pages if you need that length) on one of the two passages quoted below. In your thesis, say to what degree, if any, you believe the opinion expressed in that passage is correct. In the rest of your essay, provide your reasons.

1. “In book 4, lines 232-329 of the *Odyssey*, Telemakhos listens to Helen’s story about her attitude toward the Trojan War, which she helped to start, and to her husband Menelaos’ story about the Trojan Horse, which enabled the Akhaians to conquer the Trojans. Everyone seems very happy with both these stories. Menelaos even calls Helen’s story ‘an excellent tale . . . and most becoming.’ If this is also Homer’s attitude, it is very strange. The values embodied in the stories are not heroic; they are anti-heroic.”

2. “Odysseus’ engagement with the Cyclops (or Kyklops, either spelling will do) in book 9 of the *Odyssey* is a good example of Homer being wrong. He assumes that if somebody—such as the Cyclops—is a barbarian, you can do anything you want with him, and it’s morally right.”

In writing your essay, pay close attention to pp. 4 and 8-12 of the Humanities Handbook, especially to the discussion of developing a paper from a thesis, and to discussions of the Handbook material that take place in your sections. Turn in your essay at the **end of lecture on Friday, January 17.**

At the same time, you need to send an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com. Instructions about this will be provided in your section.

I want to be sure you know how serious plagiarism is, even on an ungraded first paper. Here’s the serious language of the university:

Students are expected to submit only their own work on papers and examinations. While you may discuss the assignments with others in the class, collaboration on the preparation of a paper is not permitted. Unless the assignment specifically directs otherwise, papers should be based entirely on your own study of the assigned material and not on secondary sources. Turning in someone else's work, whether from printed sources or material available electronically, as if it were your own, constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty.

The academic consequences of plagiarism range from failure for the tainted assignment to failure for the course, depending on the seriousness of the offense. All such offenses are reported to the college dean, who will impose additional administrative consequences, which can include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following: turning in another student's paper as if it were your own; collaboration with another student in writing the paper; quoting, paraphrasing, or borrowing ideas from published or unpublished material written by someone other than yourself, without specific acknowledgment of the source.

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, you should consult with your section instructor.