

Humanities 1  
Professor John Hoon Lee  
Winter 2014

Writing Assignment #2: Hebrew Bible and The Iliad

Choose one of the two following essay topics:

1. Both The Iliad and the Hebrew Bible are filled with stories of violence. What role does violence play in shaping the biblical and the Homeric worlds? Do Homer and the biblical writers regard violence as justified or necessary? To what extent are these writers similar or different? Write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the depiction of violence in the Hebrew Bible and The Iliad.

2. What makes a leader great in the eyes of the biblical authors? Is a hero a great leader in Homer's view? What is the role of the leader in the two works? Using the assigned readings of the Hebrew Bible and The Iliad, write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the ideals of leadership.

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 18 February. Late papers will be penalized by the subtraction of one-third letter grade per day. Finally, don't forget turnitin.com!