

HUM 3330, Fall 2017  
Essay 1

Your first essay for HUM 3330 should develop one of the topics below. The text of the essay (that is, not counting the heading, title, and list of works cited) should be no less than 1200 and no more than 1500 words long. If you choose to use secondary sources, you should be careful to use and document them adhering conscientiously to standards of academic integrity and complying strictly with the MLA style.

Your final paper should be submitted both in hard copy (you may leave it in my campus box) and through turnitin.com by four o'clock the afternoon of Thursday, September 28. If you have questions about how to use turnitin.com, it is your responsibility to ask for help well before the paper is due. Please format your paper according to the guidelines and example provided on the handout that accompanies this assignment.

Topics

- In light of the manuscripts contemporary scholars have available to them as they try to establish texts of the Homeric epics, one other of the classical texts on our reading list, and the Old Testament, discuss (from the perspective of evidences or apologetics) the relative reliability of those texts.
- Compare Achilles and Hektor as heroic figures, specifically in order to consider the extent to which they embody contrasting values.
- Discuss the role of fate or destiny in the events of the Iliad, on the basis of specific statements in the text of the poem attributing events or outcomes to either the gods or fate — or both. Be sure to take into account — and to account for or establish — the extent to which different speakers' assertions can be considered reliable or authoritative.
- Explore ways in which Aeschylus incorporates into The Eumenides reminders of or links to Agamemnon, and discuss the usefulness of those connections. If it serves your purposes well, you may also refer to connections with The Libation Bearers.

Obviously, the first topic will involve research. Be careful not to rely on only one or two secondary sources if you choose that topic. You may choose to use secondary sources to develop any of the other topics, but you should also feel free to work strictly from the text of the Iliad or the Oresteia.

Whichever topic you choose, be careful to give your essay a clear and unifying sense of purpose.

A few words of caution:

- **Quote sparingly.** Prefer paraphrase.
- **Cite the Iliad and other poems by book and line number** rather than page number; cite plays by line number of the translation and edition adopted for this course.
- Guidelines for **handling and formatting quotations**:  
If you quote from the Iliad, be careful to treat the quotations as poetry. Short quotations should appear in quotation marks with no other special formatting except slash marks to indicate line breaks, thus:

Virgil compares Aeneas to "a stout / oak tree whose wood is full of years" but "still grips the rocks" in an Alpine wind (4.609–11).



If you quote a verse passage of more than three lines, block indent by beginning each line of poetry on a new line, one inch from the left margin. Unless what you are quoting includes quotation marks, do not enclose a block-indented quotation in quotation marks.

- Take care to **distinguish**, where distinctions are appropriate, between **what characters express** (or speakers in poems) and **what authors intend**.
- **Use a standard 12-point font** (Times New Roman is a safe choice), one-inch margins on all sides, and double spacing (only double spacing, and nothing but double spacing) throughout. A sample of the format, with more detailed instructions, is attached.
- **Use a heading** (double-spaced, of course) in the upper left, followed by a title (centered and still only double-spaced). Again, see the attached formatting guidelines; follow them slavishly. You do not need a title page. Folders and binders are taboo; staple or paper clip will serve.
- **Be precise** in referring to the Iliad as a poem or an epic and to Agamemnon as a play, Oresteia as a trilogy of plays.
- **Work with a present-tense perspective**, writing "Plato proposes a Utopian society with hemlock as its state flower" rather than "Plato proposed a Utopian society with hemlock as its state flower." When your point involves placing one action before another in time, use present perfect tense: "After the Saracens have defeated King Charles's forces, Hythloday honors them with a Nobel Peace Prize."
- **Avoid referring to yourself or to your essay**, as in "In this essay I (or we) will explore. . . ." Instead, state the point you are making about the work(s) you select as your topic.
- Do not begin with vacuous generalizations about such profundities as how enduring Homer's work is or how influential poetry has been throughout the history of homo sapiens. From your first sentence your reader should have no doubt about the focus of your discussion of the Iliad or the Oresteia.
- **Do not substitute plot summary for analysis**. Your readers are quite likely to know what happens in the work(s) you discuss; they may feel insulted if you seem to assume that they do not.

Your Name

Professor Bingham

HUM 3330

21 September 2017

Title

This page illustrates the format you should use in your paper for HUM 3330. Note that the margins are set at one inch on all sides; that heading, title, and text are double-spaced; that the font is Times New Roman (12-point); and that text paragraphs are indented at 0.5 inch and left-justified only. Each page after the first should include a running head consisting of your last name and the page number. The running head should appear at the right margin, 0.5 inch from the top of the page. In “Tintern Abbey” Wordsworth describes his youthful engagement with nature as

An appetite: a feeling and a love,  
That had no need of a remoter charm,  
By thought supplied or any interest  
Unborrowed from the eye. (lines 81–84)

At the end of your paper, please include the word count. Microsoft Word will provide a count for you if you highlight the text of your paper (do not include the heading or title. The word count should appear in the bar at the base of the window.

Note the title. It is no larger than the text of the paper, not bold, not italicized, not in all capitals—simple, unpretentious, appealingly plain.

If you need help formatting your paper, prepare it early and I will cheerfully assist you.

Word count: 217

Works Cited

Dickens, Charles. Our Mutual Friend. New York: Modern Library, 2002. Print.

Hannay, Alastair. Introduction. Fear and Trembling. By Søren Kierkegaard. Trans. Alastair Hannay. New York: Penguin, 1985. 7–37. Print.

Wordsworth, William. “Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey.” Lyrical Ballads. By William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Ed. R. L. Brett and A. R. Jones. New York: Routledge Classics, 2005. 156–61. Print.