

FINAL ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

ASSIGNMENT:

In this 8-to-10-page essay, you will explore how a modern (i.e. nineteenth through twenty-first century) work inspired by the Tale of Troy engages, manipulates, elaborates, or transforms the story as found in one or more of the works we discussed during the semester. There are several possible approaches your essay may take. If you select a work directly inspired by the Tale of Troy, you could compare the modern retelling with a particular classical representation that we read this semester; if the inspiration is more subtle, your essay can detail how knowledge of the myth illuminates characters and events in the modern work. At any rate, your essay must include more than just summary of the Troy material in a modern work and should explore an aspect in sufficient detail so as to be a compelling presentation and analysis of the issue.

In the final three weeks of the course, you will present your preliminary ideas about your modern work to your classmates.

Nota bene: You will want to select a work specifically inspired by the Tale of Troy, or one whose nature can be profitably illuminated by knowledge of the myth. But be careful, generic similarities with one or more of the features of the Troy myth (e.g. wandering, abduction, early death) may be a sign of contact between a modern work and the Troy myth, or may simply be an example of a work engaging certain literary archetypes, independent of the myth of Troy—an interesting phenomenon, but not in keeping with the topic of this essay or an appropriate capstone for this course. So, if you venture off the list of suggested works (which I encourage!), please select your modern work carefully. Also, as in the second essay, keep in mind that some of the differences between works could arise from the difference of genre. This is not to say that you should not note or discuss such differences, but be sure to recognize the possible motivations for these differences.

Some suggested modern works that you may want to consider are available on the course website.

In lieu of a critical essay, opportunities for creative projects will be considered.

COMPONENTS: 1) A synopsis of your essay; 2) A class presentation on your project; 3) 8-to-10 page essay.

PROCESS:

- 1) Select a modern work that you find both personally and/or intellectually compelling and in which you notice the influence of the Tale of Troy (emulation, allusion, rivalry, and/or expansion).

Please feel free to discuss possible topics with me as soon and as often as you would like.

Percentage

Due Date

(over)

AS ALWAYS, DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

- 2) Inform me of your selection by emailing a short (~ 200 word) description of your project. I will provide feedback or guidance as appropriate and may suggest we meet to discuss the project. I will authorize your project via email by **Wednesday, November 15th**. 10% EMAIL Tuesday, November 14th

I will also assign you a date for your class presentation. It is possible (indeed likely) that you may be giving your presentation with another student who is working on the same modern work.

- 3) After you have read (or re-read) your modern work, begin working on your essay and your class presentation. 10%

This presentation should provide a brief introduction to the author and work, your reasons for selecting the work for your project, and an analysis of the influence of the Myth of Troy on the work. Since you will have no more than 10 minutes to present your project to your classmates, carefully consider how best to present your material.

- 4) Submit polished, final version of project. 80% Wednesday, December 20th by 3 p.m., in box outside my office (Hall 008)

DETAILS:

Length: 8-to-10 pages, plus title and works cited pages.

N.B. a 8-to-10-page paper must include 8-to-10-pages of your writing; citation footnotes, images, title page, and bibliography do not count towards this figure. Conversely, do not pile information that is critical to your argument into footnotes in an attempt to squeeze your paper down below the page limit.

Font: Times or Times New Roman, 12 pt.; double-spaced.

Margins: Top and bottom margins: 1"; side margins: 1.25" ("MS Word default")

Number pages, beginning with Page 1 on the first page of your writing (i.e. the title page is unnumbered)

Footnotes (not endnotes)

Include a proper works cited page.

Attach a completed, accurate, and signed **Checklist for Papers** to the front of your essay.

SUGGESTIONS:

If you have questions about citing and using quotations, please see the Classic Department resource pages available from the course website and at <http://www.haverford.edu/classics/resources.html>

Be certain to incorporate suggestions and corrections from your previous essays when crafting this essay.

Additionally, since every writer can benefit from the insights of another reader, I highly recommend having a friend, classmate, or writing tutor read over a draft of your paper.

I am happy to discuss this assignment with you via email or during my office hours.

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