

A1 and A1b: Close Reading Paper

A1 (first draft) due September 14 at the start of class. A1b (revised version) due September 25 at the start of class. Submit both versions to Moodle. Length should be approximately 1000 words. Any reasonable formatting is acceptable.

Purpose: analyze closely and discuss a specific chunk of one of the texts we read, relating it to a broader theme of the course or the work in question.

Option A: Women and the 'heroic code' in Homer's *Iliad*

In Book 6 of the *Iliad* (pp. 119-126 Lombardo) Homer describes Hector's conversations with three important women: his mother Hecuba, Helen, and his wife Andromache.

Choose two of these women. What do their words and actions say about their characters, and how does the portrayal of these characters reflect on the masculine warrior code as articulated by Glaucus just before (pp. 116-118 Lombardo)?

Make sure to refer specifically to the text throughout to support your answer.

Option B: Pericles' Last Speech

Thucydides writes a speech (*Thucydides on Justice, Power, and Human Nature*, pp. 52-56) representing what Pericles said to the Athenian citizen assembly during the second year of the Peloponnesian War. At this time the city had been devastated by plague and seen its rural properties ravaged by Spartan invasion, in accordance with Pericles' plan to go to war with the Spartans and their allies without leaving the walls and instead relying on the navy. The speech is intended "to turn aside their anger [at himself], and ... to make their minds calmer and more confident," says Thucydides (2.59).

What sorts of arguments and techniques of persuasion does Pericles use? What do these arguments and techniques of persuasion say about Pericles' style as a leader, and his assumptions about the proper role of a citizen?

Make sure to refer specifically to the text throughout to support your answer.

Acknowledgment: this assignment was originally developed by Prof. Chris Francese, and includes alterations by John MacCormick.