*Odyssey* Close Reading Analysis Essay

You will be turning one of your close readings of the *Odyssey* into an essay.

Good news: that means you already have your analysis done and your thesis written.

~~Bad~~ Best news: you’re not done yet.

In addition to turning your analysis into a fully-formed essay, you will need to incorporate a piece of art or music (ancient or modern) that addresses the scene or themes from your close reading. Your thesis may or may not change based on including this additional point of comparison, but you may want to consider questions such as:

* What is the difference between how the scene/theme is portrayed in each piece? How do these differences change the meaning of scene/theme (e.g. is one more or less “realistic”? Does one deal with a different a higher or lower social class? What is the significance of these differences?)
* How has the portrayal of the scene/theme changed over time (e.g. is modern society more likely to empathize with, and therefore humanize, monsters)?
* How/why does the way something is portrayed differ when the medium changes, i.e. text to art/music (e.g. does art also use euphemism because harsh truths are harder to digest when you have to literally [visually] face them)?
* What time period/society/genre does each piece come from, and what values does reflect?
* Is one representation more ambiguous, and if so, why does that matter?
* What is the form and structure of each piece, and how does this change its effect/significance?
* How does each piece reflect the same or different cultural values (e.g. do we place the same value on persuasion, and if not, what has changed to cause this shift)?
* What does the change (or lack thereof) indicate about the universality of the *Odyssey* as an enduring epic tale (e.g. is there really such a thing as a “universal” theme)?
* What do the similarities or differences between each piece reveal about the human experience (i.e. what does the *Odyssey* show us about what it means to be human)?

**N.B. Compare/Contrast alone will not receive a passing grade. Do NOT simply list similarities and differences between each piece. Your *Odyssey* Analysis Essay must analyze (shocking, I know).**

I will assess your work on the following:

* **Thesis**: The paper should clearly argue something of value that is the result of careful analysis. If your thesis is a “duh,” then you should probably come up with a different one.
* **Analysis**: The paper must show evidence of careful, deliberate, systematic analysis. It will cite specific references to the text and art/music to support the conclusions it draws.
* **Structure**: The paper will be grounded in and focused on the thesis. It will have paragraphs unified by common topics. It will move forward in a deliberate, systematic manner (i.e., logical, chronological, thematic, etc.). It should be easy for a reader to work backward and create a clear outline from the essay.
* **Formatting**: The paper will have been carefully proof-read for grammar and formatting mistakes. Spell check exists for a reason. I recommend reading it out loud before your final print. Your paper should be **2 FULL pages (minimum), double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, One inch margins, MLA header and citations.**  **Failing to follow these formatting directions will indicate a general lack of contentiousness and effort (translation: really, really bad).**