CLAS 102 - Women and Men in Roman Literature and Society - Fall 2018

Mid-Semester Essay Guidelines

This exercise asks you to write an argumentative essay in response to the question posed by a prompt. Your argument should be an answer to the question posed, and you will need to provide textual evidence through citations to support your answer and explain your reasoning.

Due date: Tuesday, October 23, at the beginning of class (11am).

Length: 5-6 pages, double-spaced.

Grading criteria: When grading this assignment, I will be looking for:
- a clear and specific **argument**, supported by **textual evidence** drawn from our readings;
- a logical and coherent **structure** to your paper;
- accurate **citations** of primary texts in the proper format;
- careful writing, within the required length, in grammatically correct English, with very few or no spelling errors; and,
- for a higher grade, evidence of individual thought, and creative or sensitive insights into your chosen topic.

Citations: Citations of primary source material (meaning the actual text of the author, and not introductions by an editor, footnotes, etc.) are necessary to support the claim that you are making in your argument. You should not cite material that is self-evident or that doesn't bear on your argument.

You are required to cite primary source material **at least three (3) times** in your paper. This may involve either a direct quotation or simply a paraphrase. You may cite more if your argument requires it, but keep in mind that I'm looking to see that you're **analyzing and engaging** with the source in your citation, not simply regurgitating the information.

For prompt 1, cite by the *Aeneid*'s book and line number. An example:

> Turnus asks Aeneas for mercy: "For you have won, and the Ausonians have seen me, beaten, stretch my hands; Lavinia is yours; then do not press your hatred further" (book 12, lines 1249-1251).

> OR

> At book 12, lines 1249-1251, Turnus asks Aeneas for mercy: "For you have won, and the Ausonians have seen me, beaten, stretch my hands; Lavinia is yours; then do not press your hatred further."

For prompt 2, cite only by line number of the *Casina*. An example:

> Myrrhina comments metatheatrically on their ruse: "No playwright has ever devised a better / Plot than this clever production of ours" (860-861).

For prompts 3 and 4, cite BOTH by chapter or paragraph number AND the page reference in Hackett. Some examples:

> Livy explains where the "she-wolf" of the story of Romulus and Remus may have originated: "There are some who think that this miraculous story originated because Larentia was called 'she-wolf' among the shepherd community, since she had been a prostitute" (4; Hackett, p. 147).

> Augustus describes how he established colonies all around the Mediterranean, including twenty-eight colonies in Italy (28; Hackett, p. 21).

Resources: You are free to come to my office hours or set up an appointment to discuss your chosen prompt or how to structure your paper. I am willing to read and offer suggestions on paper drafts, but you are not required to run a draft by me before the paper's due date.

You can also make an appointment with the **Writer's Workshop** (https://www.holycross.edu/academics/support-and-resources/center-for-writing/writers-workshop); there, they can help you with organizing your thoughts and structuring your argument.

Essay Prompts

Choose one of the following:

1. Do you think Aeneas was justified in killing Turnus at the end of the *Aeneid*? Why or why not?

2. Despite the name of Plautus' *Casina*, Casina herself never appears in the play. Who is the main character of *Casina*, then? And why?

3. Is Livy an "objective" historian? Cite and analyze specific examples to support your answer.

4. Anchises at *Aeneid* 6.1135-1137 tells Aeneas, "remember, Roman, these will be your arts: / to teach the ways of peace to those you conquer, / to spare defeated peoples, tame the proud." Does Augustus follow these rules, according to his own account in *The Accomplishments of the Deified Augustus*?