Reading/Study Guide (15 points)

Instructions:

Demeter and Persephone, Eleusinian Mysteries

1. In what ways is the Great Goddess Type reflected in the goddess Demeter? List features of the Great Goddess type and how they are reflected in Demeter.

2. In what ways is the life of a Greek female reflected in the story of Demeter and Persephone? Consider the entire story and its characters. List features of the lives of women in their various stages of life and how they are reflected in the story.

3. How does the story ‘mediate’ between opposing forces in the story, that is, between the Great Mother Goddess and/or female life and patriarchy? Considere: How is the female reconciled to patriarchy? We have already discussed the opposition of Gaea + offspring vs. Zeus as reflective of the justification of patriarchy in Greek society. How does this myth further resolve the opposition of male vs. female through a divine story? Answer this question in no less than 300 words. Here you will 1) define patriarchy and 2) explain the significance of the points you made in #1 & #2. For example, what would be the significance of they ways in which Greek female life is reflected in the story in reference to patriarchy.