**CLSC 300**

**Formal Essay #1, Prompt**

**Choose one of the following options and write an essay of 1500+ words.**

**Use 1 inch margins.**

**Use 1 ½ line spacing.**

**Create a title page for your name, essay title, date.**

**Include a Works Cited list, even if Shelton is the only text you use.**

**In Beachboard/Writing: Formatting and Rubrics you will find**

* **the ‘tapa style-sheet’ that can be used for citation formatting. (However, you may use another style if you wish, such as MLA, but you must be consistent. Please also state the style you used in your Works Cited list.)**
* **Rubric: make sure you look at this in advance so that you will understand how I will grade your essay.**

1. **Roman Imperial Religion**

Tacitus in his *Annales* says of Augustus, “No honor was left for the gods, when Augustus chose to be himself worshipped with temples and statues, like those of the deities, and with flamens and priests” (*Ann.* 1.10). Formulate a thesis and write an essay based on that thesis which argues either for or against the positive effect on Rome of Augustus’ practice as referred to by Tacitus, given that as Shelton says, “the [Roman] religion protected the state, and the state protected religion” (Shelton 359). (Did Augustus’ practice effectively protect the state?) In your essay discuss some of the ways that Augustus accomplished the change described by Tacitus. You may use secondary sources (books or websites) that provide images of statues, temples, coinage, etc. … Use the basic facts that you know about the history of the last century of the Roman Republic and the first century of the Roman Imperial Period perhaps as grounds for argument. Or consider the overall purpose and function of Roman religion from its beginnings until the time of Augustus.

A.1. You may respond to the same question and focus on Augustus’ plan of the *Ara Pacis* (Altar of Peace); see Beachboard **Handouts** and **Links** for a couple of sources.

**B. Roman Culture**

Write an essay in which you critique the effectiveness of the aristocratic system of Rome during the Republican Period. Use the excerpt from Cicero’s *About the Republic* 1.34.52-53(Shelton 8-9, #2) as the starting point and main reference for your essay. Was Cicero’s ideal concept of the republic one that did work in ancient Rome? Why or why not? Thoroughly reread Shelton’s chapter on “The Structure of Roman Society” (4-15). In making your argument, make reference to particular sources and information in this chapter and discuss these references. You may also make reference to American politics where applicable.

In your critique, you may want to discuss how and to what effect the idea, importance, and authority of ‘father’ (Latin *pater*) pervaded Roman society, including Rome’s chief deity, Jupiter, the practice of State Religion, government (the Senate in particular), family, class structure, the practice of patronage. How and to what effect does the idea operate in each context? How did authority of the *pater* affect society in the areas listed above? Note that Senators were called *patres,* the system of patronage has *pater* at its root, as well as other terms such as ‘patrician,’ ‘*paterfamiias*,’ etc.