

Consider the following six questions, in order to prepare for the essay portion of your final exam. When you arrive at that exam (on **Tuesday, December 12th, from 9:45 to 12:00** in your regular seminar room—and remember to bring blue books!), you will be given three of these questions to write on. In reviewing, be sure to prepare specific examples from individual works that you can use to support your answers. And good luck!

1. During the semester, we have read texts from Asia, the Middle East, Greece, and Rome that express ideals about the best way to live. Select *one figure* from each culture who embodies or promotes that culture's ideals of the best life and, using specific examples from texts listed below, explain why. Then, from your four selections, choose the figure you believe provides the best model for Americans to follow today. Explain and defend your choice.

To answer this question, select from the following texts:

Asia: Ramayana or Confucius's Analects
 Middle East: *Gilgamesh* or the Hebrew Bible
 Greece: *Odyssey*, *Antigone*, or Aristotle's writings
 Rome: *Aeneid* or Epictetus's *Encheiridion*

2. "In examining ancient cultures, the central impression one comes away with is the terrible plight of women, their subjugation, their inferior status—in effect their absence from political or social spheres." Consider the accuracy of this statement, using at least five of the following to defend your point of view, *including at least two works of sculpture*. Are women absent? Are they always depicted as weak? Do they have any power? Are male/female interactions always characterized by dominance and subordination? What does the role/status of women tell you about any one culture and its values?

Genesis	Aphrodite of Knidos/Cnidus
<i>Kama Sutra</i>	Archaic Kore
<i>Odyssey</i>	Roman women
<i>Medea</i>	"Winged Victory"/Nike figures

3. Ovid's *Heroides* cleverly rethinks Greek and Roman classics by giving voice to major female characters who may have been silenced or somehow misrepresented in the original. Now you can contribute to the *Humanitoides*, by writing a letter from one of the following minor characters. In the letter, the character should express a view of some central episode of the work, but you as the author should use the opportunity to present the work in a new light suitable to this changed vantage.

Orpah to Ruth	Lucretia to Brutus
Ismene to Creon	Adonis to Venus
Euthyphro to Plato	

4. Virtue is a concept that guides the actions and choices of persons through ancient times. Explain what is meant by virtue and by the vices, and describe their relevance in three of the following works:

a. Precepts of Ptah-Hotep	e. <i>Republic</i>
b. Ecclesiastes	f. Analects
c. <i>Encheiridion</i>	g. Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i>
d. <i>Metamorphoses</i>	h. <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>

5. Trace the relationship of human beings with their gods in at least four of the following:

a. Hebrew Bible	e. Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>
b. Homer's <i>Odyssey</i>	f. <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>
c. Aeschylus's <i>Oresteia</i>	g. Ramayana
d. Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>	

6. Much classical literature emphasizes the importance of persuasive speech or "rhetoric." What role does rhetoric play in the following texts, either in persuading the other characters or by revealing the character and motivations of the speaker(s): Select four of the following:

a. Job's dialogue with God	e. Socrates' "apology" or defense
b. Demosthenes' "On the Crown"	f. Cicero's denunciation of Catiline
c. the Mytilenian debate or the Melian dialogue	g. Socrates' discussion of eros
d. Venus's speech to Aeneas regarding his treatment of Helen and his other "duty"	