WRITING ASSIGNMENT #4: Antigone Essay (200 points)

DUE DATE: Final Draft (no other drafts required) – Day of Final Exam: Tuesday, May 25th at 8:10 a.m.

NOTE: Essays received more than 30 minutes after the final exam begins will receive a 5 point deduction. No late essays will be accepted after the final! No exceptions.

Your last formal essay of this semester will involve writing a paper of at least 5 pages in which you address one of the topics given below. As you write your essay, you must incorporate evidence (quotes, details, etc.) from the play to support your arguments and your own ideas. Also, you are required to supplement your points with ideas/information from at least 2 outside sources (library database, internet, books, academic journals, etc.). To add your own insight to the information you include from the play and your quoted resources, be sure you develop sound explanations to clarify your points.

Remember to quote the lines from the play as if you are quoting a poem. Also remember that you must include the author and line numbers that come from in the play you are referencing (for example—Sophocles 304-309 or Sophocles 981-990, etc.). Finally, along with properly quoting and citing the supplemental sources that you use, you must cite Sophocles' play to include the translator in your Works Cited page.

Keep in mind that this essay is worth up to 200 points and that your grade will be determined by how well you have met these important criteria:

1) an effective introduction with a developed grabber, transition idea, and thesis
2) an original and solid thesis statement
3) an effective conclusion that wraps up your main argument and leaves the reader with a lasting thought
4) accurate use of information/specifis from Antigone AND at least 2 reliable academic sources to support your points
5) insight and sophistication of analysis and discussion (Show your own ideas, analysis, and insight!)
6) development and completeness of your supporting ideas (Be sure to explain your ideas/points completely.)
7) unity of ideas (All your information and ideas must stay focused on your thesis idea. Also, stick to using information that supports your thesis and major supporting points.)
8) coherence (Ideas in your essay and within your paragraphs must all be linked/connected for a smooth flow.)
9) organization (Ideas and evidence must follow a logical organizational pattern.)
10) clarity and presentation—word usage, sentence meaning, logic, format, structure and so on
11) spelling, mechanics, grammar, sentence structure and variety, and other mechanical aspects (Your essay should be error-free and should follow essay guidelines.)
12) an original and creative title for your essay
13) a correct and accurate Works Cited page (using MLA format/standards) citing the play (as a translated work) and the supplemental resources you’ve quoted from—Review MLA standards for citing your sources.
ESSAY TOPICS

Topic #1

The German philosopher Hegel stated that Antigone represents the tragic collision of right against right, with both sides equally justified. Do you agree with this assessment of the play? Why or why not? Analyze and discuss the conflict between Antigone and Creon as you argue your position on this issue.

Topic #2

In his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," Martin Luther King, Jr. writes, "One may well ask, 'How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?' The answer is found in the fact that there are two types of laws: There are just laws and there are unjust laws." Is this perspective of "just" versus "unjust" laws what Antigone is attempting to argue as she fights for her right to bury her brother? Why or why not?

Topic #3

Some of the crucial thematic conflicts of Antigone have been described as individual conscience versus loyalty to community; the demands of family and kinship versus obligations to the state; moral and divine law versus temporal and human law. Choose one of these conflicts, and discuss how it is represented in the play.

Topic #4

How do preconceptions of gender and gender bias play into the attitudes and actions of the characters in the play? Which characters feed into those biases and preconceptions and which characters seem to challenge those notions? Discuss the role of gender in the play Antigone and what it reveals about the characters’ perceptions of themselves, others, and their roles as males and females in Greek society.