

Hi, all,

You're receiving this e-mail because you have opted in to writing a final essay for our course this semester. Awesome! Here are some guidelines and tips to keep in mind:

1. I will follow up with each of you individually to work with you towards an actionable thesis statement. Even the personal reflections should have a guiding organizational thesis, like "This course validated / questioned my beliefs about ancient and modern gender and sexuality in x,y,z ways."

2. Remember that the essay is **5-6pp. double spaced**. That is actually not a lot of space. As such, your thesis should be focused enough to fit within the space allotted. I'd recommend trying to hone in on a specific question or comparison: for example, rather than "masculinity in ancient and modern militaries," a more manageable topic might be "bodily inviolability in ancient and modern militaries".

3. Remember that you are required to use **2 primary** and **2 secondary sources**. A primary source is a translation of the actual words of Greek or Roman authors (unless you know Latin or Ancient Greek, in which case cite the original!). A secondary source is a scholarly article, book chapter, or book OR an online source that showcases academic rigor, like articles from *Eidolon* or Sharon James' *Humanities Futures* piece from Roman Comedy week (e.g., not Wikipedia, etc.). Ormand can count as one secondary source. News articles about current events may be used if it discusses your topic, but be wary about which news sources are reputable and which are not. If you are unsure whether a secondary source is acceptable, please ask! Secondary sources need not be focused on ancient material, especially if you will be comparing ancient concepts against modern ones.

4. I'm very happy to work with all of you on finding sources and refining arguments, but a quick reminder that another excellent resource is **Jennifer Whelan** in the library, who visited our course at the beginning of the semester to talk about primary versus secondary sources and library resources. You can contact her at jwhelan@holycross.edu (copied on this e-mail) and make a personal research appointment with her at <https://holycross.libcal.com/appointment/6749>. She's been apprised of the requirements of the essay and will be a great resource if you're looking for sources or trying to refine a thesis. Her familiarity with areas related to Classics like history and religion make her an even better resource than me if your topic encompasses more than just the ancient world!

5. The grading rubric will take into account the following points:

1. Essay title?
2. Clear thesis statement?
3. Use of 2 primary sources?
4. Use of 2 secondary sources?
5. Clear stages of argument / reflection?
6. Works cited page with comprehensible entries?

6. I am not requiring your citations to be in any specific format, as long as you are consistent throughout your paper. I'm attaching to this e-mail a sample of citations. For primary sources, the entry must include at least an author name (if known), the title of the work (if provided), and subsection identifiers (line numbers, poem numbers, paragraph or book numbers, etc.). Often, the parenthetical citation after primary sources in Ormand will suffice. For secondary sources, make sure to include as many details as are necessary to allow me to trace your steps. If your citation doesn't have enough information to let me track down the quote or paraphrase in question, then it is not "comprehensible."

7. I'm happy to read paper drafts, but I will have a strict cut off at **5pm on Tu 5/7**: you may not submit a draft after that time. This is to ensure that I'll have enough time to give useful feedback for final drafts before the essay due date on **F 5/10 at 5pm**.

If any questions arise as you work on your papers, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Prof. Libatique