HUM 2051: CIVILIZATION 1: ESSAY

Titles

(1) What are some of the similarities, and some of the differences, between the portrayals of Gilgamesh, Odysseus and Beowulf which we have read? What do they tell us about the role of a hero in the societies in which they were composed?

(2) How does the depiction of Socrates in Aristophanes’s Clouds differ from that in Plato’s dialogues? How are they alike? Which do you believe to be closer to the historical Socrates, and why?

(3) What lessons, if any, does Plato’s Gorgias hold for modern politics?

(4) Apply Aristotle’s theory of tragedy, as set out in his Poetics, to a film or TV drama of your choice. Discuss the differences and similarities between Greek theater and today’s cinema or television. Is Aristotle’s theory now out of date?

Regulations

• Outlines for essays, with an indication of the planned line of argument and a draft bibliography, should be submitted by the end of 10th week (no later than Friday, March 26th). Email submission is preferred (to aberdein@fit.edu, ideally as plain text in the body of the email). Early submission welcome.

• Essays must be word processed and must contain a full bibliography.

• Essays should be no more than 3000 words long. There is no minimum length, but short essays may receive low marks.

• Essays must be submitted before the end of 13th week (no later than Thursday, April 16th).

• Essays must be submitted both in paper form, by hand, and in electronic form, through TurnItIn.com (Class ID: 2609057; Password: April16th).

• Essay submission is final: whatever you submit as your essay is your essay. Check very carefully that you have not submitted the wrong document.

• Late essay submissions will be penalized by one letter grade. Essays late by more than one week will receive a grade of 0.

• Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for THE COURSE. You are responsible for knowing all Florida Tech policies on academic dishonesty (see www.fit.edu/current/plagiarism.pdf). In words of one syllable: if there are some words you did not write, and you do not say so, you will fail the course.

February 15, 2009