

Humanities 101 Final Exam Topics

Choose **ONE** of the topics below and write on it an essay between 1500 and 2000 words in length.

1. How has the task of becoming an immortal hero changed from the time of Achilles to the time of Sir Gawain?
2. From Helen of Troy to Morgan le Fay, how has the role of women in hero stories changed over time?
3. How does the relationship between Athena and Odysseus compare with the relationship between Aeneas and Venus?
4. What are the most significant differences between gods we see in the *Iliad* and the supernatural beings (God and Morgan le Fay) that we see in *Sir Gawain*?
5. Who would Achilles think was the better warrior: Aeneas or Sir Gawain and why?
6. If Ovid were obliged to write the story of either Odysseus or Sir Gawain, who would he pick and why?
7. Suppose Sir Gawain had to choose either Augustine or Ovid to tell his story, who would he pick and why?

In writing, observe the following rules:

1. Present your discussion in an orderly way, without repeating yourself. If you're having trouble with an outline, let me help.
2. Support what you say with *detailed* evidence. This means you will probably have to paraphrase what happens and what is said in specific passages.
3. Do not just give me a plot summary; *interpret* the passage for me, and point out the less-than-obvious details—the ones we might not notice while reading the text for the first time—that support your interpretation.
4. Re-read—*carefully*—any passages you decide to use; don't just rely on your notes or your memory.
5. Do not ignore evidence to the contrary. Be sure that a careful reading of the text (or texts) *as a whole* will support your interpretation.
6. Observe all of the conventions of standard academic English (proper punctuation, spelling, grammar, usage, and effective sentence style).