This paper should be about 4 pages in length and submitted via Blackboard.

Prompt

For this paper, you will analyze one play from ancient Greece to offer a snapshot of the period. This is not a paper about textual analysis. The project is to use the play as evidence of a past event, condition, or way of life in 5th century Athens. In other words, I’m asking you to describe and analyze an aspect of Athenian culture and/or politics by exploring a cultural artifact (i.e. a play text).

You must choose one of the following plays (If you wish to explore a different work, please email me for approval):

- Aeschylus’ Agamemnon
- Euripides’ Medea
- Aristophanes’ Lysistrata

You must select one aspect of sociopolitical or cultural life to develop a thesis. You may decide to investigate: the status of women, citizenship, patriarchy, religious practices, war (mythic or real), or another topic of your choosing. I also recommend that you examine the play as it was first produced by discussing one or more theatrical conventions: adaptations of epic tales, audience reception, architecture, costume, machinery and spectacle, aesthetics, and/or genre (Aristotle’s Poetics might offer some critical insights).

In order to support your argument, you must provide evidence and should therefore consult at least five academic sources. Remember to:

1. Provide specific historical and textual examples
2. Synthesize your research as part of your discussion

Form

Your paper should follow MLA style guidelines and offer the following:

1. A clear introduction: Outlines your overall argument for the essay.
2. Multiple paragraphs: Each paragraph will address a specific part of your overall argument and start with an informative topic sentence.
3. A clear conclusion: Summarizes your argument and clearly states your point of view.
4. A bibliography: Includes all sources consulted, including your selected play.

Recommendations

This assignment cannot be done in one sitting. Schedule out blocks of time to do your research writing, and revisions.

“A” papers are usually not first drafts. Write and rewrite. Utilize the writing center and think like an editor as well as an author.

Le’Mil and I are available to support you during the research and writing process. Take advantage of our office hours.