

## Midterm Exam Guide

**General Instructions:** The exam consists of three major sections: passage IDs, short IDs, and essay. Each section has its own set of instructions: be sure to read these carefully before you begin responding to that part of the exam. In all your responses, however, try to do the following:

- 1) **Write legibly and clearly.** I need to be able to read and understand your thoughts to give you credit for your very good ideas.
- 2) **Be concise.** As I have encouraged you in other assignments, make every word count! There is no need for fluff or filler, just get to the point and give me the relevant information that I am asking for. This allows you to complete the exam in the time allotted and not waste time and space writing out needless drivel.
- 3) **Be specific.** When describing texts, terms, concepts, or analyzing passages and ideas, be as specific and clear as you can be. Do not say something vague like “this looks Homeric” or “I remember reading something like this in Herodotus.” Say something specific and meaningful instead! Tell me the *exact elements* of the passage, the *specific topics/themes* that the passage displays, the *specific parallels* you see to *specific other passages*, and *why* these are significant and worth mentioning.

### Part A: Passage IDs!

**Instructions:** Choose **FOUR of the SIX** passages below and **identify** and **comment** on those four passages. These are like the 3MP Quizzes, but I will be looking for higher levels of specificity and more meaningful discussion of the texts than in a typical 3MP. Do the following for each passage:

- 1) Identify the **text**, **author**, and **speaker(s)** [where applicable].
- 2) Describe the **immediate context** of the passage. What does it do for that text in that particular part of that text?
- 3) **Comment** on the passage (the items below are suggestions, *not* limitations!):
  - Describe how it fits or displays the **various themes or topics** we have explored in this class.
  - Describe how the speaker **describes/portrays their enemies**/other foreign figures.
  - Think of it this way: Tell me why I am asking you about this passage!!!
- 4) **Connect this passage to other texts** and the core concepts of the class.

**FOUR Passage IDs x 13 Points each = 52 PTS; spend ca. 10 minutes per ID = 40 minutes total.**

### Part B: Short IDs!

**Instructions:** Choose **FOUR of the SEVEN** terms below and **identify** and **comment** on those four terms. NB: these terms will largely be drawn from the boxes on your weekly reading assignment sheets. Describe the following for each term:

- 1) **Define the term** to the best of your ability.
- 2) Identify in what **texts/contexts/passages** we encountered this term.
- 3) **Comment** on the term: Try to describe: **who, what, when, where, and why?**
  - Think of it this way: Tell me why I am asking you about this term!!!
- 4) **Connect each term** to other texts, passages, or the larger themes of the class.

**FOUR Short IDs x 5 Points each = 20 PTS; spend ca. 3-4 minutes per ID = 15 Minutes total.**

**Part C: Thematic Essay!**

**Instructions:** Choose ONE of the TWO essay prompts below and write a **cogent essay** answering the questions posed by the prompt. Be **clear and specific** in your essay. The essay prompts will ask you to make an argument about the larger topics and themes we have been exploring over the course of the semester. Be sure to do the following:

- 1) **Answer the question! State your argument clearly** in the beginning and then argue that point throughout the essay with clear and specific examples to demonstrate your point.
- 2) **You *must* refer to THREE specific examples from the texts** to back up your argument. Argue your point from these texts! I recommend you stick to just three examples—if you try to incorporate more than that you are likely to ramble on with a list of examples and not use the time/space to do any meaningful analysis of the texts.

**1 Essay x 30 Points = 28 PTS;** spend ca. **20 minutes** on the essay