

Response Paper 4: Tragic Persians and Greeks

RP 4 Questions:

Please answer ALL of the following questions to the best of your ability in a succinct essay. You should make ample use of the assigned readings in your response. See the General Instructions below for the standard guidelines for response papers.

- 1) In what ways are the Greeks and Persians similar in Herodotus' narrative? In what ways are they different or, in other words, what distinguishes the Greeks from the Persians?
- 2) Aristotle describes the ideal tragedy as leading to a purging of emotions for the audience by arousing pity and fear as they watch a character undergo a *peripeteia* (roughly translated as "tragic downfall"). How does Aeschylus' *Persians* make a Greek audience—made up of Athenians who were refugees during the war and/or veterans of the battles of Salamis and Plataea—feel pity for the Persians, especially Xerxes? What does Aeschylus' play suggest about Athenian attitude toward the Persians?

General Instructions:

For all the response papers you write this semester, follow these instructions:

- Formatting expectations: 1" margins on all sides, text double-spaced and 12 pt Times or Times New Roman font.
- Length: 1-2 pages; however, I will grade your papers based on their quality, not on the quantity of your words. The "1-2 pages" guideline is meant to give you an idea of the reasonable amount of space that I think should allow you to address these questions.
- You should be succinct, but be sure to answer the questions. You do NOT need to summarize the texts we are reading (remember that I am the audience for these papers), so focus your attention on the questions.
- You absolutely *need* to make use of the texts to answer these questions effectively. Argue a point from the texts; refer to events, characters, words, etc., but do NOT just quote extended passages. I want to see *your* words, not our translators' words. I do not care about citation techniques, especially since you will not be quoting the texts extensively.
- Unless noted, the response papers are DUE on THURSDAY of the week assigned at the BEGINNING OF CLASS. They are considered late if I receive them after 11:01 AM.