

Response Paper 6: Hannibal – The Formidable Opponent

RP 6 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.

- Part a.** How do the larger stories, myths, and legends surrounding Hannibal suggest the Romans feel about Hannibal? What are the key elements of his character and behavior that recur in these texts? If you consider this “mythology” of Hannibal in chronological order of composition (Fabius Pictor, Polybius, Coelius Antipater, Cl. Quadrigarius, Nepos, Livy, Valerius Maximus, Silius Italicus), are there changes that occur over time? What might account for these changes?
- Part b.** What sort of positive traits are attached to Hannibal in the Greco-Roman accounts of his exploits? How can these be reconciled with the devastation that Hannibal brought to Italy during a seventeen-year-long war? Can you find any similar mix of praise and fear/hatred/disgust in a modern enemy figure?

**NB: The due date of this response paper has changed:
It is now DUE 11/3/15 @ 11:00 AM, in class or via email.**

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.