

  
Final Essay: 7 pages

Due Date: May 11 – submit electronic copy: Word document attachment (not google docs)

I

Compare and contrast Oedipus from *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles with Okonkwo from Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

At the start of the texts in which they figure as major characters, they are upstanding, well-respected, brave man of honor; however, both experience a reversal of fortunes, exile, and tragedy.

Analyze the similarities and differences between the two characters in terms of background, personality, relationships, the community, and fate.

Make sure you formulate a thesis statement to avoid a laundry-list effect.

II

While "Love Must Not Be Forgotten," "Her Three Days" and "No Name Woman" are set in different parts of the world and in different time periods, all depict women whose lives and fates are conditioned by the patriarchal societies in which they live.

Analyze these characters' hopes and dreams, their concepts of love and marriage, and their roles in their respective societies. How do the authors' representation of these characters and societies they live in convey a particular ideology or point on view on women's roles, socialization, and identity?.

III

Explore how individuals come to understand themselves and their place in the world by analyzing THREE stories discussed this semester.

More specifically, explore the various pressures, influences, and/or stereotypes that shape or attempt to shape a character's life, perspective, and actions, and also consider if and how the character responds to these factors.

Your essay will want to demonstrate ability to examine the complex relationship between socio-historical forces and the arts which these produce and shape.

IV

Compare and contrast Sembene Ousmane's and Chinua Achebe's representations of polygamy in "Her Three Days" and *Things Fall Apart*.

Analyze the similarities and differences between the two authors' portrayals of the community's and the individual's ideology, practice, and beliefs.