

PHR-415 - Pilgrimage

January 16, 2018

Essay #1 Prompt

For our first paper in the course, students are to craft an essay of 3-4 pages in response to **one** of the following options. The first option is a more conventional argumentative essay, whereas the latter is more creative in scope.

Option #1 - Basho and Victor Turner

Prompt: In what ways do Basho's travels reflect Victor Turner's ideas regarding rites of passage? In what ways do they differ?

Generally speaking, I look for essays that contain a clear, specific argument that is supported by evidence from the text. As such, your central argument should be clearly mapped out in a single-sentence thesis statement at the end of an introductory paragraph. Feel free to draw from other readings in the course apart from Turner when making your argument.

Option #2 - The Narrow Road to Andover's Interior

Prompt: Compose an essay in the *haibun* style (fusion of prose and poetry) used by Basho in response to your own walking here at PA.

Before you begin writing, select a place on or off campus to serve as a destination for your own walk (try to be deliberate in your choice). Then, actually *walk* to the location of your choosing and back to your starting point, composing a series of *haikus* along the way (minimum of ten). When composing your poetry, do your best to emulate the main features of *haiku*: the 5-7-5-syllable format, the evocation of a season, wabi, sabi, the reduction of the distance between the reader and the object, and the recollection of the past/history. From there, connect your *haikus* with prose, as Basho does in his work. You might find it preferable to compose some of this prose while on your walk.

Please indicate the prompt to which you are responding at the top of your paper. All essays should be **between three and four pages** in length and utilize 2.0 line spacing, 1.0-inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font. They should also include a title! Given the page restrictions, it will be important to be selective regarding what you choose to include. Proper citation (for argumentative essays) is expected and should adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style. A works cited should also be included at the end (failure to do so will result in a lower grade!).

NOTE: DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR ESSAY. In order to minimize the impact of inherent bias, I grade all essays anonymously. Instead, I ask that you put your Andover ID number in the top right corner of the paper. We will hold a Writing Workshop on Thursday, January 18, where you will have a chance to get a jump on the writing process.

The final draft will be due at the beginning of class on Monday, January 22.

Essay Title:

Name:

Philosophy/Religious Studies Essay Rubric

		Excellent 6 or 5	Good 4	Needs Improvement 3	Unsatisfactory 2 or 1	
Complexity		Central argument is original and complex in scope, not only demonstrating an understanding of the subject matter, but also an ability to adapt and apply said understanding to formulate new concepts, frameworks, or ideas.	Central argument is clear and demonstrates a strong grasp of the subject matter, which is used to draw new insights	Central argument isn't always clear or is relatively simple in scope. Material may occasionally be misunderstood.	Central argument demonstrates little to no independent thought. Material is misunderstood.	
	Argumentation	Thesis	Complexity of central argument/main idea of essay finds expression in a clear, direct thesis statement.	Central argument/main idea of essay finds expression in a clear thesis statement	Essay contains a thesis statement, though it is either unclear, underdeveloped, or disconnected from central argument.	Thesis statement is either missing or unidentifiable
		Claims	Central claims are clear, developed, incisive, and support the central argument	Central claims are clear and support the central argument	Central claims are present, but not always clear or not always relevant to the central argument	Central claims are either missing, unclear, or do not support the central argument
Evidence		Claims are substantiated by evidence that is both selective and relevant to the main argument. Evidence is fully analyzed and properly cited in-text and in the works cited.	Claims are substantiated by evidence that is relevant to main argument. Evidence is analyzed and properly cited in-text and in the works cited.	Essay employs evidence, though it is not always relevant or does not fully substantiate the claim. Evidence is not always properly cited.	Evidence is either missing, entirely disconnected from the claim, or is left unanalyzed. Evidence is cited improperly or not cited at all.	
Organization	Structure	Progression of ideas is clear, logical, and compelling, serving to enhance the main idea	Progression of ideas is logical and moves the reader through the text	The logic informing the progression of ideas is not clear, leading to an awkward, though not incomprehensible, structure	The writing lacks a sense of direction, demonstrating little to no attention to the underlying structure of the essay. Difficult for the reader to follow.	
	Transitions	Transitions are smooth, effective, and logical throughout the essay	Transitions are strong and help enhance the coherence of the essay	Transitions are present, though don't help to link ideas	Transitions are missing	
	Intro & Conclusion	Introductory paragraph is clear and direct, offering relevant context for the ensuing argument. Conclusion ties together main ideas without resummaring, offering an insightful consideration of implications/suggestions	Introduction is clear or direct, offering context for the ensuing argument. Conclusion ties together main ideas and offers some consideration of implications/suggestions	Introduction is either lacking in clarity or contextual information, resorts to cliché tropes, or includes information that is not relevant (i.e. is too long). Conclusion trends toward summary in a manner that is repetitive and does not offer consideration of implications. Conclusion cites ideas not proven in the main argument.	Introduction is either missing or comprised of information that is not related to the main argument. Conclusion is either missing or unrelated to the main argument.	
Mechanics		Accuracy throughout in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Sentence structure is complex yet clear, helping contribute to overall flow of the writing.	Isolated errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling may occur, but are not overly distracting. Sentence structure is clear and effective.	Errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling collectively distracts from the final product. Sentences are occasionally incomplete, structured incorrectly, or too simplistic.	Text is difficult to understand due to errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Incomplete sentences are common.	

Grade:

Essay Title: _____

Name: _____

Haibun Essay Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations 6 or 5	Meets Expectations 4	Needs Improvement 3	Unsatisfactory 2 or 1
Theme	Central themes are original and complex in scope, finding expression throughout the essay	Central themes are present and identifiable	Central themes are less explicit or, alternatively, overtly obvious	Central themes are unidentifiable
Haibun Elements	Essay includes min. of 10 haikus, all of which meet the 5-7-5 format and reference a season	Essay includes min. of 10 haikus, all of which meet the 5-7-5 format and reference a season	Essay does not meet min. haiku requirement, or haikus do not match the 5-7-5 format or reference a season	Essay does not meet min. haiku requirement and haikus do not match the 5-7-5 format or reference a season
	Both prose and poetry consistently and effectively captures the main characteristics of haiku, including elements of both <i>sabi</i> and <i>wabi</i>	Prose and poetry capture main characteristics of <i>haiku</i> , including elements of <i>sabi</i> and <i>wabi</i>	Prose and poetry are either inconsistent or ineffective in their treatment of the main characteristics of haiku, including elements of <i>sabi</i> and <i>wabi</i>	Main characteristics of haiku (<i>sabi/wabi</i>) do not find expression in either the prose or poetry
	Demonstrates a deep level of attention to the relationship between past and present, which finds clear expression in both prose and poetry	Demonstrates attention to the relationship between past and present, which finds expression in prose or poetry	Demonstrates inconsistent attention to the relationship between past and present	Does not demonstrate attention to the relationship between past and present
Organization	Underlying structure is clear and organized, serving to enhance the main idea/theme of the essay	Underlying structure is clear and organized	While not incomprehensible, the underlying structure is unclear and disorganized, making it difficult to locate the main ideas of the essay	The writing lacks a sense of organization, demonstrating little to no attention to the underlying structure of the essay. Difficult for the reader to follow.
Mechanics	Accuracy throughout in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Sentence structure is complex yet clear, helping contribute to overall flow of the writing.	Isolated errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling may occur, but are not overly distracting. Sentence structure is clear and effective.	Errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling collectively distracts from the final product. Sentences are occasionally incomplete, structured incorrectly, or too simplistic.	Text is difficult to understand due to errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Incomplete sentences are common.

Grade: _____