

GNEED 1202 – Journal

Due: Tuesday October 27 and Thursday Dec 3 in class. Worth 14% of final grade.

One of the requirements for the course is to keep a journal throughout the semester. You will be required to write one journal entry for a thematic set of readings. These readings coincide with content covered in the lectures. There will be seven journal entries (i.e., each worth 2% of final grade).

Guidelines

For each journal entry, specify the title/theme (see next page) of the readings and the date of your entry. Follow that with seven to ten paragraphs (about 500-800 words or three to four double-spaced pages) about the reading.

For each reading, please do the following:

- Discuss the thematic question in the context of the reading. This might involve describing how the reading illustrates a specific world view/mentality/way of interpreting the world/society/life. Be sure to include several quotations from the reading that illustrates your argument.
- Tell me about your impressions on the reading. Some of the questions you might address are: did you enjoy/dislike it? Why or why not? Do you find it relevant? Are there aspects of your own, your friends, or your family's lives to which the readings seem particularly relevant? Do you agree/disagree with the author? Why or why not? Were there certain parts or quotes that you really found clever/interesting/wrong/boring/insane/etc? Would you recommend the students next year read it?

Don't feel that you have to parrot your professor's opinions in the journal. If you can't stand a particular reading or think the professor is out to lunch in his interpretation, don't be shy of telling me. Just be sure to tell me why (i.e., provide an argument).

This isn't a research paper so I don't expect any other resources. I would expect however references to page numbers (i.e., the bold page numbers at the bottom of each page in the book of readings). For example, in the hypothetical journal sentences below, you can see the way to reference:

I was really moved when Shiduri told Gilgamesh "let music and dancing fill your house" [p. 4]. It reminded me of the lyrics of a song by ...

When Achilles rejects Hector's plea for a proper burial [p. 24] I thought he was ...

Grading

As long as you write about two to three pages for each journal entry you will likely get very close to full marks (say 7/10). I tend to give higher marks to those who have either written a little bit more on most of the readings or who demonstrate a willingness to reflect upon how the reading or art relates to their own lives. I have even given extra bonus marks for journals in which each entry is consistently long and insightful. Even though this is a journal, I will expect reasonably proper grammar and spelling; I won't be as picky however with the journal's grammar as I will be with the assignment papers.

Believe it or not, reading these journals (especially the ones in which students were honest and reflective) is by far the most enjoyable part of the course for me.

Submission Instructions

- The text of your journal must be single-sided, double-spaced and use a 12pt font. The left margin should be 1.25 inches, the right margin 1.25 inch, and the top and bottom margins 1 inch. Number the pages. **You will lose marks if you don't follow these instructions!**
- You must hand in a hard copy (i.e., bring me a paper copy; do not just email it to me) in class on the due date. Alternately, you can drop it off in my assignment box (just outside of B175).
- Do not submit your assignment with a special cover or folder. Simply use a staple. Make sure your name is on the first page.

Journal Schedule

These will be journal entries that are due on October 27.

	Thematic Question	Readings + Art
1	What role does the city play in Gilgamesh's journey and his gaining of wisdom?	<i>Gilgamesh</i> readings (Books 1,2, 8-11).
2	Compare and contrast the characters of Achilles and Hector.	<i>Iliad</i> readings (Book 1, p. 77-89; Book 5, p. 164-174; Book 6, p. 199-213; Book 9, p. 254-266; Book 22, p. 541-555; Book 24, p. 604-614).
3	Discuss the differences between the Athenian and Spartan worldview as communicated in Pericles' funeral oration and Herodotus's account of the Battle of Thermopylae.	Reading Thucydides (in coursepack).
4	Both Thucydides' Melian Dialogue and Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> are concerned with the morality of power. Reflect on this issue in terms of these two readings: did you find your opinion about Athens change? Are you more sympathetic to Antigone or Creon's perspective?	Reading Thucydides and Sophocles (in coursepack).

These will be journal entries that are due on Dec 3.

	Thematic Question	Readings + Art
5	Discuss the medieval perspective on human nature as expressed in the reading Dante.	Dante (<i>Inferno</i> , Cantos I, I, III, and V)
6	Boccaccio writes explicitly about sex and desire. What is the effect of this narrative candor? What is its relationship to gender? In other words, what do you make of Boccaccio's treatment of female vs male desire. Why do you think it is so different from Dante's treatment?	Boccaccio (in coursepack)
7	One of the key characteristics of the Renaissance is a new vision of what it means to be human and what a human is capable of achieving. Discuss this in the context of the Vasari's essay on Leonardo.	Vasari (in coursepack)