**Midterm Assignment**

***Choose any one of the following prompts/ questions and answer that in an essay of about 2 to 3 pages (600 to 900 words).***

1. **Would you like to call *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles a tragedy?** You should define a tragedy, list its aspects, and discuss the play in the light of that. For the definition and characteristics of a tragedy, you should refer to Aristotle’s *Poetics* even if you want to express your disagreement with some of his ideas. You may also bring in other theories, or better even, add your own ideas too.
2. **What is a sonnet and what are its general traits? Choose a Shakespearean sonnet you have read, discuss its formal aspects, and also offer a critical interpretation of it.** You may address the second part of the question in two further sections (or you may merge them as suitable). In one section, discuss the sonnet’s rhyme scheme, rhythm, sounds etc. Next, comment on the poem’s style/ language and theme(s). You may address the following issues for this section: Does this Shakespeare sonnet conform to, or break away from, the typical characteristics and conventions of sonnets from the Elizabethan period? What possible theme (s) does the poem develop? Are there any other aspects/ issues in the poem that you would like to relate to your discussion?
3. **Would you call Lysistrata from Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata* a champion of women and people?** In other words, do you think she advances the cause of a country and women by standing against forces that discriminate against women and disrupt the peace of a nation? In your answer, evaluate her actions and role in the light of the question asked.
4. **Choose any two poems you have recently read and compare and/or contrast them based on how they portray modern times, or more specifically, post WWI period.**

***Some points to remember:***

* Take a position in your answer. In other words, your answer should clarify your opinion/ critical viewpoint through a thesis statement.
* Follow the thesis up with arguments or further ideas for discussion that relate back to your thesis.
* Every argument or idea should be explained clearly and also supported by examples or quotes from, or references to, the text.
* Refer to **at least one external source** (essays, articles, book chapters, lectures etc.) as well.
* Sound coherent in your answer. Each paragraph in your answer should deal with a particular idea/ argument that develops your thesis/ position.
* Finally: remember! Your opinion/ analysis matters! Contribute your own critical comments as you discuss ideas. Prefer making critical comments to storytelling.

***Procedural requirements:***

* Adhere to MLA style (Times New Roman, 12, double-spaced). Though this is not a very strict requirement, I strongly encourage you to look up MLA.