**Essay Project Instructions**

**Part 1 (to be completed during Week 3):

Develope Your Thesis, Introductory Paragraph, and Outline

Step 1:** Choose two works from Modules A, B, C, D, E, or F which you would like to compare and develop into a full-length paper. (Because this course is primarily a world literature course, you cannot compare Genesis 1 and Psalm 49. Both are important works, but your essay needs to deal with world literature texts.)

**Step 2:** Develop a thesis statement which expresses the goal of your comparison. Your thesis should be one or two sentences long. It is a promise to your audience of what you will prove in your paper.

**Step 3**: Write an introductory paragraph which invites your fellow students into your general topic and which includes your thesis (your goal) which you developed above. This paragraph should convince others that you know what you are doing as you start your project.

**Step 4:** Organize your ideas until you can write an outline that sums up your main points. Your outline should use complete sentences, so others can understand where your ideas are going. Continue revising the outline to make sure it flows logically from your thesis to a conclusion. (Sometimes it is helpful to write a very rough draft at this stage to decide how your thoughts will fit together into an outline.)

**Step 5:** Ask someone to review your thesis, paragraph, and outline. Then, make improvements based on their suggestions. You might also contact the Liberty Graduate Online Writing Center or tutor.com for feedback. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:A. Characterize literary works from antiquity to the present.B. Analyze the works in their moral, literary, cultural, and historical contexts.C. Explore the enduring human values which unite the various literary traditions.D. Examine the works not only as literature but also as products of their age, showing how they were influenced by and influencedtheir society.E. Compare and contrast the specific talents and diverse literary style among the various writers/texts.F. Show how the literature does or does not reflect Christian values.

**Part 2 (to be completed during Week 4):

Writing the Final Draft of the Essay**(As you write your essay, you can always change, adjust, and improve your earlier thesis, paragraph, and outline.)

**Expectations of Your Final Draft:** As you write your paper, please keep these principles in mind:

**A. Structure and Organization:** The paper should be well-organized and have an insightful introduction and thesis. There should be smooth transitions between the paragraphs and between ideas within paragraphs. You should end your paper with a meaningful and helpful conclusion. Be sure that your paper moves step-by-step from your thesis to conclusion.

**B. Content and Length:** Your paper should be filled with your own original, insightful, and clear ideas. You should also have an adequate understanding of the cultural, historical, religious, and/or philosophical context of your topic. Your assertions should be supported with trustworthy evidence from the reading assignment. You will probably need to define your key terms.

Your paper should be between 1300 to 1600 words excluding the title page and any reference page. (You should not include an abstract, separate thesis statement, or an outline with your final draft.)

**C. Research, Sources, and Citations:** No research or outside sources are needed for this essay. If, however, you do include any outside sources, they must be correctly cited in your text and at the end of your paper. You will need to properly cite the two readings assignments which you are comparing.

**D. Format & Style:** Your paper should be double spaced and should use 1-inch margins, 12-pt. font size, and a common font (Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman). The paper should be formatted according to MLA or APA rules.

**E. Grammar & Mechanics:** The paper should be error-free and follow standard academic rules regarding grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.

**F. Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are unacceptable. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting the source. Self-plagiarism is when a student resubmits work he/she previously submitted for another class. Other forms of plagiarism are explained in the Liberty Way. If some form of plagiarism should occur, the student will fail the assignment and possibly the course. In some cases, the student may be suspended or dismissed from the university. Plagiarism detection software will be used to check all submissions.