ENB 163 Readings in Western Civilization
Dr. Cirilla
Philosophical Reflection Paper #[insert number]
Your Name

PRPs: Assignment Overview

 This semester, you must submit a total of 4 philosophical reflection papers, which are intended to demonstrate your ability to imaginatively and thoughtfully engage the literature we have read and discussed together. In this reflection, you should:

* Identify what about the text strikes you as interesting, striking, or worthy of comment and explain why you think it’s important.
* Articulate what ideas from the passage of Boethius’s *Consolation* you find most interesting and point out ways in which the section from Boethius can be applied to the text in question. In the case of Boethius himself this means you must cite from both his poetry and his prose.
* Comment on how the text relates to significant aspects of worldview and identity, whether Christian or otherwise.
* In at least one paragraph, answer the assigned discussion question. You can (but do not have to) devote the whole PRP to answering the question, but must make sure to address the previous bullet points as well (often they overlap).

Your goal is not to write a fully formed argument with a thesis statement and body paragraph. Rather, this is a means to offer thoughtful discussion on each reading’s appeal, interest, and significance, and develop application of Boethius’s ideas to the story. In some fashion, the discussion question listed below should be addressed, but discussing other aspects of the prompt may require that you talk about aspects not directly relevant to the question as well.

Break your assignment into thoughtfully arranged paragraphs – do not send one large block of text. **You must use direct quotation and citation of page numbers to get full credit in this assignment**, but you should also not quote so much text that it becomes a way to get out of sharing your thoughts. Begin a paragraph identifying what it will be about, and balance quotation and summary with commentary and interpretation.

Use MLA formatting, 12-point Times New Romans font, single spaced with regular margins and numbered pages. Reflections must be a minimum of a *full page* (with a heading as modeled above), and *no more* than 2 full pages. You must submit the PRP via Turn It In as listed in the schedule.

These assignments are worth 20 points each for a total of 80 points.

Weighting:

7 pts: Relevant coverage of the text in question

7 pts: Salient discussion & application of Boethius

6 pts: Writing reflects you are a civilized member society.

Optional Creative Writing Alternative Prompts:

For **one** of the PRPs, instead of a traditional PRP, you may do one of the following:

1. Cast members of the story with actors, justifying based on those actors’ roles why they would be a good fit for that story. Choose a director with similar justifications. How would you incorporate Boethius thematically into the film? Don’t just choose director and actors: give an aesthetic explanation as to why.

2. Develop a detailed soundtrack for the scenes of the story, explaining why they are fitting to the narrative in each scene, and then explain how the combination of songs helps to highlight a Boethian theme in the text.

3. Draw or paint a scene in great detail from the text, and explain briefly why you think that scene is particularly crucial to the text’s meaning, incorporating Boethius into your explanation.

4. Compose a Boethius-style poem that philosophically examines the meaning of the story and how it can help us to draw closer to God. The poem and paragraph explaining it must take up a full page.

5. Write a short story that expands upon an idea in the original text, incorporating imagery or thematic content from Boethius. Write a short paragraph explaining what you did.

Deadlines & Theme Questions:

PRP #1: September 10th In Boethius’s philosophy, what role does imagination, poetry and storytelling play in the pursuit of goodness and truth?

PRP#2: October 11th What value can be found in exploring Homer’s ancient pagan imagination as it emerges in the story of *The Odyssey*, from a modern/American/Christian perspective?

PRP#3: November 15th How does *Hamlet* speak to the relationship between identity (religious, political, familial, or otherwise) and imagination?

PRP#4: December 8th What is *Brave New World* saying about the relationship between imagination, politics, and science?