Long Essay

Prompt: Analyze the portrayal of foreigners or barbarians in the Persian Expedition of Xenophon and compare this with their portrayal in Herodotus.

1) Which model or models (Normative, Racist, Idealizing, etc.) does Xenophon use to describe foreigners in relation to Greeks? If he uses more than one model, how do you explain this (for example, does he use one model to describe some peoples and not others, or in speeches but not in battle narrative)? Considering the book as a whole, what would you argue is Xenophon’s overall view of foreign peoples?

2) Compare your conclusions about Xenophon with your earlier conclusions about Herodotus. In what ways are the two authors similar? In what ways are they different? What would you suggest are reasons for the differences?

Length: 1500 to 1800 words
Draft Due: Wednesday, May 31 (in class)
Essay Due: Friday, June 16, by 3 pm

Goals
The purpose of this assignment is to help you develop the skills of reading works of literature attentively, and of arguing carefully from those works. The essay should therefore show that you have read and thought about the works as a whole -- not just sections that might support your thesis, but those that might contradict it as well.

Strategy
Start with the details, reading and thinking about the texts, and as you go draw up various outlines (on paper or in your head). Be prepared to change your mind or approach as you encounter different examples, and allow plenty of time to revise and rewrite both the first draft and the final version. You will probably need to tighten up the argument and the mechanics. Argument: do the examples you give really support your thesis? Do you need to revise the thesis to take account of all the data? Have you omitted examples that help to prove (or disprove) your thesis? Mechanics: make sure your writing is clear and grammatical. Limit quotations to those that are really necessary to prove your point. Do not waste space on summaries. Please include page numbers and a word count.

Questions or Help
Professor Dunn and Tracy Jamison will be glad to help you.

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Monday, 2-4 pm, or by appointment    Mon. & Wed., 10-11 am, or by appointment

Please don’t wait until the last minute to ask for help!