

Part II: (50 points). Each essay is worth 10 points.

DIRECTIONS: Respond to one question from **Five** of the **Seven** works listed below in an essay of **250-300 words (1 - 1 1/3 pages double spaced)**. Please use examples from the text to support your answer. Your essay should be written in the proper **MLA** format.

Upon completion of Part II of the final exam, please upload to the appropriate drop box labeled: **ENG 201 Final Exam: Part II (Short Essays) by 12/16/22, before 11:59PM. Absolutely NO excuses if you miss the deadline.**

Also **DO NOT EMAIL the exam to me******

I. Sophocles *Oedipus the King*

1. How is Oedipus said to contribute to his own downfall? Who else can be blamed and why? Do the gods bear any part of this burden? If so, why? And, what for?

II. *The Ramayana of Valmiki*

1. *Ramayana of Valmiki* places great importance on the role that women play in the work. Compare/Contrast the role of women in this work to **two** other texts that we read this semester in class. How do they differ? How are they the same? Consider the treatment of women in the ancient epics to that of women today; discuss the changes and our similarities that one might find to be true of women's roles today.

2. Consider Rama's various brothers, allies, and friends in this epic. What is their role, and how are they to be understood? Is their assistance necessary? How do they help a god? Was their friendship to Rama fated, or did they have a choice concerning whether they would help him or not?

III. Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

1. Shakespeare is said to have raised the question of honorable and ethical death versus suicide by madness or by mandate throughout *Hamlet*. *Do you believe that Ophelia's death is accidental? Why or why not? Is it possible that the parents of both Hamlet and Ophelia are to blame for their children's melancholia and erratic behavior and ultimately their demise?*

2. What is the dramatic climax of the play? How do you justify this choice? What remains after this moment in the final resolution or denouement?

IV. Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales: The Wife of Bath*

1. Discuss three significant traits that distinguish the *Wife of Bath* from other fourteenth-century Englishwomen. Considering the description of "The General Prologue," how is the Wife of Bath's tale in particular, appropriate for the teller?
2. What are the relationships between the prologues of the Wife of Bath and the Nun's Priest?

V. Marie De France: *The Lais, Bisclavet & Laustic*

1. Using The *Lais* of Marie de France to inform your discussion, support or refute the following statement: Love and honor are simple concepts, inherent to humanity, which lovers and underlings make inordinately complicated for themselves.

VI. *One Thousand and One Nights*

1. Explain the concept of the frame narrative in reference to *The Thousand and One Nights*. What other connections and/or comparisons can you make to other literary works?
2. Consider the predicaments of Shahrayar and his brother, Shahzaman: How do they discover the truth and ultimately make themselves feel better about it?
3. Compare Shahrazad to another primary character.

VII. *Classic of Poetry*

1. **Select one** of the following pieces from *Classic of Poetry: Fishhawk, Peach Tree soft and Tender, or Plums are Falling*. Analyze the poem you select for meaning. What elements does the poet use to portray the deeper meaning?