

21H.237
The City of Athens

Response Paper #2

The Athenians and their Gods

In her chapter on Athenian religion in *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Pericles*, Deborah Boedeker offers a survey of key aspects of Athenian religion. In other words, she spends most of the chapter on the *description* of a series of specifics relevant to the topic. In this response paper, you should seek to turn Boedeker's descriptive specifics into your own analytical generalization(s). Given the details Boedeker introduces in her chapter, how would you characterize Athenian religion? What do you think is the most important or distinctive feature of the Athenians' relationship with their gods? (I.e. distinctive in comparison to your own knowledge and/or experience of modern religion.)

As on the last paper, you should feel no need to be comprehensive in your response. Please choose one general feature/characterization (or perhaps two very closely related factors) on which to elaborate in your paper.



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Papers receiving high grades will excel in each of the following:

Argument and Structure

Your paper should seek to convince its reader of an argument, a thesis. The thesis should be clearly stated in the introduction to the paper. The body of the paper should seek to support your thesis by marshaling an abundance of evidence from the text in a clearly structured and coherent argument. Finally, a conclusion should remind your reader of the thesis you have been supporting and show how that thesis is relevant to a wider historical context. Remember throughout that your paper should be a work of critical analysis.

Quality of Writing

Your argument should be expressed in clear, concise, and readable English. There should be no errors of grammar, syntax, or spelling. Precision and elegance of expression will be rewarded.

Referencing

Your paper should be based on close reading of the text and so should contain careful referencing of the text throughout. References to Boedeker's chapter may take the abbreviated form 'Boedeker, 2007, 46', either as a footnote or as a parenthetical reference in the main body of your paper, in place of the longer 'D. Boedeker, "Athenian Religion in the Age of Pericles", in L. Samons (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Pericles* (2007), page 46'.

Form:

All papers must comply with the following presentational guidelines:

- Papers must be 750 words in length (\approx 3 pages).
- Papers must be typed in 12-point font, with double spacing.
- Your paper should have a brief title; but there is no need for a title page.
- On the three short response papers, a bibliography is also unnecessary.

Submission:

The paper is due during session 7.

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21H.237 The City of Athens in the Age of Pericles
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