

Ruth Parkes – Classics

Extract Ovid Metamorphoses 9.704-797

Sarah Reynolds – Creative Writing, English

Write a poem in response to one of the artefacts, objects or themes that you have encountered on this module. Your creative work should be accompanied by a 500-word critical commentary in which you reflect upon the way in which the course material has influenced your creative practice.

Jessica Keady – Religious Studies, Theology, Biblical Studies

To conduct a gendered reading of a Dead Sea Scroll, focusing particularly on the themes of, Gender, Violence, Purity/Impurity, Disability and the Construction of the body in the following text:

The War Scroll (1QM VI, 11b – VII, 7)

VI. 11b The horsemen, including the mounts of the men of the rule, shall be six thousand, five hundred for a tribe. All the mounts which go out 12 for the battle with the skirmishers shall be male horses, swift of foot, soft of mouth, long of breath, in the full measure of their days, drilled for battle, 13 trained to the hearing of [n]oises and to the sight of all scenes. Those riding on them shall be men of worth for the battle, drilled to the mount and the measure of 14 their days shall be from thirty years to forty-five years. The horsemen of the rule shall be from forty years to fifty; they 15 and the moun[ts] [...] and helmets and leggings, equipped in their hand with round shields and a spear eight cubi[ts] long [...] 16 [...] a bow and arrows and war javelins. All of them shall be ready in [...] 17 and to shed the blood of the slain of their guiltiness. They are the ones who [...] 18 [...] [...]

VII. 1 The men of the rule shall be from forty years to fifty. Those who order the camps shall be from fifty years to sixty. The officers 2 shall also be from forty years to fifty. All those who strip the slain, seize plunder, purify the land, keep watch over the weapons 3 and the one who prepares the provisions, all of them shall be from twenty-five years to thirty. No young boy or woman shall enter their camps when they leave 4 Jerusalem to go to battle until their return. Neither lame, nor blind, nor crippled, nor a man in whose flesh there is a permanent blemish, nor a man stricken by some uncleanness 5 in his flesh, none of them shall go to battle with them. They shall all be volunteers for war, perfect ones of spirit and flesh, and ready for the Day of Vengeance. Any 6 man who is not purified from a (bodily) discharge on the day of the battle shall not go down with them, for the holy angels are together with their hosts. There shall be a distance 7 between all their camps and the place of the hand two thousand cubits or so. No indecent nakedness shall be seen in the surroundings of all their camps [...]

Angus Slater – Religious Studies, Theology, Islamic Studies

Identify a contemporary instance of the role biological determinism plays in social construction and identify the way in which it's deployment upholds the social status quo.

In *The Mismeasure of Man* (W. W. Norton & Co., 1981), Stephen Jay Gould traces the history in Western thought of what has come to be called "biological determinism." This is the general name for theories which hold that the roots of human social behavior and personality lie in the biology of individuals and groups (racial or ethnic) and thus determine fundamental aspects of social life. Gould treats examples of biological determinism stretching from Socrates' famous parable of the metals in Plato's *Republic*, through nineteenth-century craniometry and the early twentieth-century I.Q. testing movement, to more recent theories such as those about I.Q. and race and, finally, sociobiology. While not proposing that this particular array of ideas necessarily forms a direct line of descent, Gould does suggest that in Western culture these theories share some common methodological roots and usually served similar functions in the broad social context of their times. He argues that theories of biological determinism over the years rationalized the status quo by postulating that social problems are caused not by environmental or social conditions, but by innate, biological factors. One message of the book is that such theories are not merely products of a less enlightened past, but in various forms are still with us today.

Jane Cartwright – Medieval Studies, Celtic Studies, Welsh

Gwerful Mechain's medieval 'Cywydd y Cedor' ('Poem to the Female Genitals'), ed. and trans. Dafydd Johnston, *Medieval Welsh Erotic Poetry* (Cardiff: Tafol, 1991), pp. 36-39.

Link to content: <https://contentstore.cla.co.uk/secure/link?id=a42b4203-f32f-eb11-80cd005056af4099>

Lina Malagon – International Development, Global Citizenship

Eminem is a controversial rap singer who has written multiple popular songs considered misogynist. In "Like Toy Soldiers", Eminem proposes a diverse gender perspective. Identify the gender stereotypes in this famous song and discuss different ways to interpret the role assigned to men from a gender theory approach.

[Eminem - Like Toy Soldiers \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#)