Feasts and Festivals: Final Exam!
Due: Due Friday, Dec. 18, 7.59 pm

There are three parts to the exam. Please complete one from each section. Each response should be no longer than one page (spacing 1.5, Times/Helvetica). This means that you will be submitting three pages total. Be sure to indicate which question you are responding to at the top of the page.

Part One: Writing

1) Review your papers for this class and my comments. How has your writing improved? What are your weaknesses? What strategies might you employ in the future to address areas for improvement?

2) Return to paper one. Now that we have finished the course, what changes would you make to your paper regarding structure, argument, and evidence?

Part Two: Thinking and talking about food now.

3) When we talk about food, are we ever really just talking about food? Briefly describe a conversation you’ve had or overheard, or a scene from a movie, TV show, or book and examine how food functions as a marker identity and belonging. How is your scenario similar or different to the ways that the ancient Greeks and Romans constructed food as meaningful independent of the biological necessity of eating?

4) Dining hall observations: How has this course shaped the way you evaluate interactions in the dining hall? Are there particular aspects of the dining hall experience that an ancient Greek and Roman would find familiar or strange? What assumptions might an ancient Greek or Roman make about the dining hall experience based on ancient constructions of food and feasting?

5) Holiday observations: How will this course shape your experience of future holiday festivities, perhaps even those to be celebrated shortly over the break? What festivities do you partake in and are there aspects of these festivities that are similar to Greek and Roman ones? If there are differences, how might you account for these differences?

Part Three: Thinking and talking about food then.

6) If you were to identify with any particular identity group in antiquity, which would you choose and why?

7) If you could attend any Greek or Roman festival, which would you choose and why? If you were an ancient Greek or Roman, which festival would you most look forward to? Why?

8) Choose a primary source from those that we’ve read this semester and analyze how feasting functions in this particular scene.
Guidelines: As I mentioned in class, the guidelines are not as stringent for this final writing assignment. If you quote something directly, please be sure to cite it. Below are some things that I’ll be looking for in each section generally.

Section One: How have you developed as a writer through the course of the semester?

Section Two: This is where you apply what you’ve learned about the ancient world to the modern world. Can you apply the more theoretical concerns of the course to a modern context? In other words, can you demonstrate how your understanding of the ways that the ancient Greeks and Romans talk about and ascribe meaning to food may be applied in a modern context?

Section Three: This is where you apply yourself to antiquity, or, in other words, this is where you consider your place in the ancient world. For questions six and seven, do you address how you, as a person alive today, would identify with a group personally or eagerly await a festival? In addition, do you address how you, as you imagine yourself in antiquity ancient person—an elite Roman, a poor Roman, a woman, a man, a slave, a foreigner (you need only address one of these identity groups)—would situate yourself. In short, how would you respond to the ancient world as yourself; how would you respond to it if you were an ancient person? Question eight is a more traditional question in that it asks you to consider the ancient world from an analytical perspective rather than a modern or ancient one.