Assignment 2  

FS 101: Academic Discourse I  
Section 23: “In Our Image”  
Fall 2008  
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Home page: http://cs.allegheny.edu/~rroos/fs101F2008/  
or http://cs.allegheny.edu/wiki/fs101F2008  

Assignment 2: Preparation for Discussion  

On Wednesday we are going to discuss the readings you’ve been doing on the Web about mythological figures. Discussions require preparation.  

1. Read pages 57–58 in Hacker’s book (the section on “Active Reading”). How many of the guidelines did you follow when you were reading the Web sites? Go back and re-read them, this time looking for things you might have missed the first time, or ways that they relate to other topics, perhaps contemporary ones. (For example, do you think people who do research in areas such as robotics or artificial intelligence are in any way similar to Greek gods in their abilities or their mindsets or the kinds of things they want to achieve?)  

2. Read the attached excerpt from Roger Shattuck’s book Forbidden Knowledge (pages 13–26). Don’t worry about all the many literary references here; our primary concern is with Prometheus and the author’s use of that myth as a “launching point” for a more extended discussion of the idea of forbidden knowledge. (This book is on reserve for our class at Pelletier Library.)  

3. Write down at least three non-trivial discussion questions relating to the mythological figures you read about. Be prepared to hand these in at the beginning of Wednesday morning’s class. Be sure to write legibly (typed is better) and to put your name and the date on it.  

4. Continue reading Edison’s Eve.  

5. Next week’s discussion will be about “the uncanny.” Read the essays by Mori and Freud on online the list of readings; if you have the time, you can also read the story “The Sandman” upon which Freud’s essay is based.