Select **one** of the following prompts to orient you for the first response paper/rough draft. You will have time this coming Friday in section to discuss the prompts and your initial ideas, and you'll hand in your written response (2-3 pages) to your TA the following Friday, September 17.

1. In this first part of the class, we have read (and will read) a series of texts in which characters search for knowledge about their own condition (*Gilgamesh, Oedipus the King, The Odyssey,* Plato) — but with very mixed results. Start thinking about how these different stories dramatize and problematize the search for self-knowledge, and how different characters within these stories perhaps convey different attitudes to the doctrine "know thyself." You will want to compare and contrast, but compare and contrast papers should not be about saying "these stories are mostly similar" or "on the whole, they're more different than alike" — instead, you're looking for something interesting that comes out when you put texts in dialogue with each other. Your final paper should address at least two different readings.

2. In this first part of the class, we have read (and will read) a series of texts in which love plays a variety — a *very* wide variety — of roles, but it is always figured as one of the most important human experiences: love of wisdom (the literal meaning of the Greek word *philosophy*), to sexual love (*Gilgamesh*), familial love (*The Odyssey* and, in a very different way, *Oedipus Rex*), romantic love (Sappho, Catullus), brotherly love (*Gilgamesh*), and more. Start thinking about how these different stories define, analyze and dramatize the power of love over us. You will want to compare and contrast, but compare and contrast papers should not be about saying "these stories are mostly similar" or "on the whole, they're more different than alike" — instead, you're looking for something interesting that comes out when you put texts in dialogue with each other. Your final paper should address at least two different readings.