21H.522 Study Questions/Response Question for The 47 Ronin

Here are some questions to answer while reading the 47 Ronin texts. Please respond to question 4 for this week’s response paper. The question will also be posted in the website’s study materials section and the schedule. Please post your response to the Study Materials section.

1. What competing notions of honor were at work at the time of the 47 Ronin incident?

2. In what way does the 47 Ronin Incident demonstrate how “the way of the warrior” was changing?

3. In Okada Denpachiro’s account of the incident, what do you notice about the concern over status? How does status affect various decisions and treatments of the different characters?

4. Pretend that you are a participant in the debate over the 47 Ronin. After carefully reading Okada Denpachiro’s account and the arguments afterwards, which position would you agree with and why? (Or you can combine them/come up with your own). In your response, try to think of counter-arguments to your argument and refute them. Please use citations from the texts assigned.