Reading Questions – *The Castle of Otranto*

1. How does Walpole’s use of the castle as a motif interact within his contextual moment? Is he making a political statement? If so, what is he critiquing?

2. How does the privileging of antiquities inform *The Castle of Otranto*? Does it suggest something about the political moment in which it was written? If so, what?

3. What duties do children owe their fathers? How are the “children” in *The Castle of Otranto* “rewarded” or “punished” for either fulfilling or rebelling against those duties? How might that theme be translated as a political stance?

4. How does the idea of machinery in *The Castle of Otranto* interact with the supernatural within the novel? Does it seem contradictory that a tool built through reason could be used to illuminate events that lay outside of the reasonable?