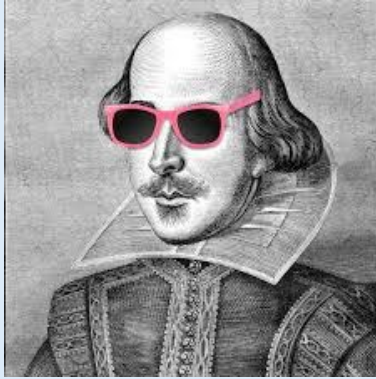


English 22/22H: Shakespeare

Final Paper Directions (25% of course grade)



Context: The final paper for English 22/22H will show your comprehensive understanding of Shakespeare's works as we have explored them this semester. You will conduct research and use secondary sources to write a persuasive comparison and contrast paper with a thematic focus.

Requirements 22:

- 1500 words (6-8 pages double spaced, MLA style)
- 2 of plays we have studied in the final unit (*Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, and *Tempest*)
- 2 scholarly journal articles
- 1 theoretical lens text
- 1 additional credible source (news article/website or another theoretical text)
- 1 image (for multimodal support)
- Optional oral presentation (5/13)
- Total: 6 sources

Requirements 22 H:

- 2000 words (8-10) pages double spaced, MLA style)
- 2 of the plays we have studied in the final unit (*Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, and *Tempest*)
- 4 scholarly journal articles
- 1 theoretical lens text
- 1 additional credible source (news article/website or another theoretical text)
- 1 image (for multimodal support)
- Total: 8 sources
- Required oral presentation (on the last day of class 5/13)

Due Dates:

- ✓ **Fri 5/2: Full draft for Dr. K's review**
- ✓ **Tues. 5/6: Peer-review in class**
- ✓ **Fri. 5/16: Final revised version due**

Choose one of the prompts below:

1. **Drama and Ethics:** What is the purpose of human life and how does Shakespeare's drama help us understand our lives? In Aristotle's perspective, the purpose of human life is to achieve *eudamonia* or happiness through the practice of virtues. Virtue may sound unusual to us today but to ancient thinkers it meant the power of excellence for humans and all things. Virtues include loyalty, kindness, hopefulness and resilience among many others. Identify two central virtues in the two of the plays (*TN*, *Othello*, *Tempest*) we have studied in this unit. How do these plays present these virtues? What ends or goals do these virtues help to achieve? Consider literary techniques in your analysis. Write a thesis-driven essay that argues for the ethical value of learning about virtues through drama in two of the plays. Here are some texts to help you orient what you will need:
 - William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, or *Tempest* (choose 2)
 - Michael Penn, "Why Constructive Resilience"
 - Aminatta Forna, "Selective Empathy"
 - Scholarly article (you find) x 2 and/ or Kaufman, "Care", Lupton on "Virtues", Penn "Human Rights and Virtue Discourse"
2. **Acts of Acknowledgment and Forgiveness:** Analyze how the forces of acknowledgement and forgiveness function in two plays. For example, focus on the acknowledgement or recognition scene at the end of *TN* and on Prospero's response to Antonio and/or Caliban at the end of *The Tempest*. Consider literary techniques in your analysis. Write a thesis-driven paper that argues for the significance of acts of acknowledgement, recognition, and forgiveness in two of the plays, paying attention to both similarities and differences (compare and contrast). Here are some texts to help you orient what you will need:
 - William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night* and *Tempest*
 - Aminatta Forna, "Selective Empathy"
 - Scholarly article (you find) x 2 and/ or Kaufman, "Care", Lupton on "Virtues", Lupton on "Creature Caliban"; Beckwith on "acknowledgment"
3. **Shipwreck and Sea changes:** How do the central metaphors of the shipwreck and the tempest function as a force of transformation in *TN* and *The Tempest*? Choose one or two characters and trace how they have transformed through the course of the play. What forces—spiritual, social, or physical—prompt their transformation? What changes occur during this reorienting? Consider literary techniques in your analysis. Write a thesis-driven paper that argues for the significance of shipwreck and the notion of a tempest/sea change in both plays, paying attention to both similarities and differences (compare and contrast). Here are some texts to help you orient what you will need:
 - William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night* and *Tempest*
 - Aminatta Forna, "Selective Empathy"
 - Scholarly article (you find) x 2 and/ or Kaufman, "Care", Lupton on "Virtues"

4. **Storytelling:** Othello's tales of battle bring him and Desdemona together; Iago's lies break their marriage apart. In *TN*, Viola/Ceasario's narratives are powerful creative acts of self-preservation. What's the status and function of storytelling in *TN* and *Othello*? For this option, you can focus on the willow cabin and patience on a monument monologues and the three autobiographies that Othello presents and analyze how they function in revealing transformations in the plays. Consider literary techniques in your analysis. Write a thesis-driven paper that argues for the significance of storytelling in both plays, paying attention to both similarities and differences (compare and contrast). Here are some texts to help you orient what you will need:
 - William Shakespeare, *Othello and Tempest*
 - Ben Okri, *From The Mystery Feast, Thoughts on Storytelling*
 - Scholarly article (you find) x 2
 - Ruha Benjamin, *Imagination*
5. **Hospitality and Care** brings characters together while hostility and indifference separates them. Analyze the theme of hospitality and hostility as well as acts of care in *Othello* and *The Tempest*. How does care function in the relationship of Prospero and Caliban? What social forces does Iago represent? What is the play suggesting about the destructive and constructive forces of hostility and hospitality? Consider literary techniques in your analysis. Write a thesis-driven paper that argues for the significance of hospitality and care (or lack of) in both plays, paying attention to both similarities and differences (compare and contrast). Here are some texts to help you orient what you will need:
 - William Shakespeare, *Othello and Tempest*
 - Hospitality theory: Richard Kearney, Derrida, Kant
 - Scholarly article (you find) x 2 and/or Kaufman, "Her Father Loved Me", *Shakespeare and Hospitality*
 - Ruha Benjamin, *Imagination, Growing the World We Want*

Creative and Contemporary Prompts (you must make an appointment to meet with Kaufman to discuss your plan for these prompts and get approval by Kaufman first as these prompts require a particular type of focus!):

1. Compare and contrast the challenges, risks, and rewards of intercultural and interracial marriage in *Othello* and the movie *Loving* (2016). How does genre affect the outcome?
2. Compare and contrast the portrayal of Othello, a valiant warrior corrupted by an outside influence, with King T'Challa in the movie *Black Panther* (2018). Consider both as "break through" performances in their respective times. What is potentially new or revolutionary about the depiction of each?
3. Compare and contrast the enchanted island in *The Tempest* with another Science Fiction/Fantasy space (approved by Kaufman) such as Pandora in *Avatar*. What futuristic properties does each location boast? Do these properties solve social problems?

THESIS GUIDELINES

Thesis Tips:

- **Structure** your thesis using **comparative grammar** to show distinction: “While/though 1..., 2...”; “If author 1..., then author 2...”; “1... whereas 2...”
- **Select** strong **verbs** to show the **kind** of change the second text enforces: *undermines, reduces, critiques, exceeds, rejects, intensifies, questions*
- **Identify** specific **ways** *through which* that change occurs
- **Punctuate** for concision: semi-colons (to join two full sentences or lists); parentheses for detail (if any); and a colon for emphasis at the end, or to separate list items if needed.

Sample Thesis

Original thesis:

Both Moliere’s *Don Juan* and Wycherley’s *The Country Wife* depict the exchange of women among male characters and reduce them to the status of property used to improve or alter a man’s social reputation

What’s it missing?

1. The **kind** of change/distinction between each play
2. Which **ways** make that change happen (these points will become your body paragraphs)
3. A better point for the introduction to the thesis.

Revised thesis:

While *Don Juan* addresses the issue of women’s lack of identity apart from their roles defined by male relatives, *The Country Wife* considers the possibility of transforming their social status and allowing them access to the public sphere, **thereby** producing a heterosocial experience in society and the theater itself.

[the Why?]

Revised-revised thesis:

While *Don Juan* addresses the issue of women’s lack of identity apart from their roles defined by male relatives, *The Country Wife* considers the possibility of transforming their social status and allowing them access to the public sphere, thereby producing a heterosocial experience in society and the theater itself; **however**, although both protagonists break the homosocial divide by interacting extensively with women, **the fact that they continue to subordinate female characters in order to negotiate relations with other men suggests that the plays ultimately restrict the extent of freedom for women and uphold the patriarchal social order.**

Introduction Paragraph:

- ✓ In your introductory paragraph, introduce the theme you are exploring and the two texts with full titles. Make sure to directly respond to the prompt.
- ✓ Then, provide 1-2 sentence summaries of each play.
- ✓ Then, transition to the thesis using the guidelines above

Body Paragraphs:

Use block or point by point comparison style:

- ✓ **Block: 1 paragraph on each play analyzed and alternate**
- ✓ **Point by point: each paragraph includes analysis of both plays**

For each body paragraph, begin with a topic sentence that connects main ideas previewed in your thesis to your examples about that main idea.

Example topic sentences

- **Point by point (both texts in the same paragraph):** *Shakespeare uses the symbolism of... to show how ...in TN and Othello*
- **Or: Block (one paragraph per text)** *Shakespeare uses the symbolism of... to show how ...in TN*
- *Similarly, Shakespeare uses the symbolism of... to show how ...in Othello*

Include 1-2 direct quotes from the plays in each paragraph followed by strong close readings of Shakespeare's lines and connections with the primary theme you are exploring/arguing for.

Include direct quotes from the secondary sources to support your points throughout the paper. You can aim for 1 secondary source quote per paragraph but it is not a rule; sometimes you may not need it but it's better to have "more" than "less" quotes generally speaking.

Use MLA format for citations (Act, Scene, lines) -> (2.1.22-24).

Conclusion Paragraph and image:

Finally, write a concluding paragraph (**avoid the expression "In conclusion,"**) in which you make one final unique point about your whole essay and/or make a personal connection to the theme:

- *I can consider the significance of... in Shakespeare's drama in relation to..*
- Include your image here or embed in throughout the essay- your conclusion can be based on your image

Include Works Cited page in MLA Format with all your sources