

English 15: Introduction to Shakespeare
Paper # 1 Assignment
Viele/Fall 2002

This paper is *due at the beginning of class on Monday, October 21, 2002*. The paper should be three pages, double spaced, in a reasonable font (no Courier), with 1" margins. You should use MLA style format. You may choose *one* of the following topics for your paper:

1. Develop an argument which discusses the function of theatricality in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Why is an emphasis made upon the power of theater? What characters are associated with a belief in theater? Why? How does the use of plays and/or acting add to the overall themes of the text?
2. Develop an argument which addresses the function of dreaming in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. How is the concept of the dream used in the play? What is the purpose of the emphasis upon dreaming? When does it come up? Which characters are associated with dreaming?

Please note that these topics are designed to guide you in your development of an argument; you should not attempt to address each question as provided in the topic description. Rather, use these questions in order to more fully develop your thinking about each thematic issue. Your paper should include a clear argument and direct textual references to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This assignment emphasizes the text as the "master" authority; by this I mean that, although we have spent time on them in class, your paper should not make references to filmic or stage adaptations of the play. Stick to what you can argue based upon the text itself.