

English 15: Introduction to Shakespeare
Paper # 2 Assignment
Viele/Fall 2002

This paper is *due at the beginning of class on Friday, November 22, 2002*. The paper should be five pages, double spaced, in a reasonable font (no Courier), with 1" margins. You should use MLA style format.

This assignment asks you to choose a film adaptation of *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, or *Othello*. Using the issues that the text leaves open (e.g. Does Ophelia really kill herself, or is it an accident? Does Gertrude know something about Ophelia's death, or is she just reporting it how she imagines it happens? etc.), discuss how a particular adaptation interprets these questions. In order to do so, you will need to develop an argument about how the film deals with it (i.e. X film presents Ophelia's death as a deliberate act of suicide), and then you will prove this by making reference to specific scenes, costuming, set design, staging, etc. from the film itself. You should make reference to the text in order to show that the issue you are discussing *is in fact left open by the text*; you cannot make an argument about things that are certain in the text (i.e. certainties of plot such as Laertes killing Hamlet).

This assignment emphasizes the adaptation, but you should still use the text as a starting point. Since this is an English literature course, the text is technically the "master" authority. Thus, you should concentrate on questions that the text poses, and which the adaptation tries to answer.

Note: Please focus your argument on *one* film, though you may make reference to another adaptation in order to strengthen your argument. This is not, however, a "compare and contrast" paper.