

Longer Paper (worth 35% of grade)

In one of our major electronic databases (JSTOR, MLA Bibliography, or Project Muse) or in a scholarly book, locate a relevant critical article or chapter written **since 1980**. Please avoid writing on the play you wrote about for your first paper. You may disagree with the critic—I often find it's easier to disagree, at least partially, than to agree completely. Or, you may agree substantively with the critic but want to apply his or her ideas to a new play; for instance, if you find an interesting article about power in *The Winter's Tale*, you might also be able to apply it to *Cymbeline*.

Though this is not meant to be a traditional research paper (i.e., one where you're essentially writing an encyclopedia article about other people's ideas), you will also need to bring in outside research from other articles or books to provide critical and cultural background for your arguments. To clarify, though, I'm looking for your thoughts more than your ability to find out what other people have said. You can think about this as being in a conversation with the critic(s): they've said something, and now it's your turn to speak.

You may wish to start your research by looking in the Companions for ideas. You may also want to request books or journals from other institutions. Please start requesting them *now* to allow enough time!

As with any essay, you should have a focused argumentative thesis, provide textual evidence to support your arguments, consider opposing or alternative viewpoints, and so on. I see six major challenges in this paper: 1) identifying an interesting and appropriately focused research question; 2) locating appropriate sources; 3) reading and interpreting the (sometimes obscure) critical prose correctly; 4) including enough of your own ideas and interpretations that the critics' ideas don't dominate; 5) demonstrating technically and stylistically correct use of critical sources, and 6) resisting the temptation to fluff your paper up in order to hit the page limit. One of Shakespeare's early competitors snidely said that he was able to "bombast out a blank verse"; bombast is cotton stuffing, but following Shakespeare in this will not be the way to success on this paper.

Also, please attach copies of your research to the back of your paper. It's okay if they have your comments all over them; in fact, I prefer it.

DON'T PLAGIARIZE! Incorrect citation due to carelessness, fatigue, or ignorance is still plagiarism. If you receive an "NGR" (No Grade Recorded) for this class, it probably means that I am pursuing a charge of academic dishonesty against you.

8-10 p.; **due April 22**

Also, any papers you wish to revise for a better grade must be handed in no later than the time scheduled for our final exam (the one we're not having): I will be in my office, Lytle 249, Tues., May 6, 8-9:50 a.m. (for the 9:30 section) and 11-12:50 (for the 12:00 section). You may also turn in revisions before that time. Please attach the previous version of the paper with my comments to the back of the revised copy.