

BM 7, WiSe 2013/14, ASSIGNMENT 2 – Analysing Drama

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together and with punch holes on the left, but not bound in any kind of folder or wrapping. Every assignment must include a “title-page” and the statement on plagiarism.

Analyse the following passage from *Hamlet* : Act I, Sc. 2, ll. 159-194 (“Hail to your Lordship.” – “For God’s love let me hear!”).

(NOTE: The text is specified according to the Arden edition, 3rd series, ed. Ann Thomson and Neil Taylor)

Please analyse this text, addressing the following tasks and questions. You may write up to *three* pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of the Literary and Cultural Studies style sheet.

Close Analysis of the Passage:

1. Dramatic Communication

Divide the passage into sections and give a structured summary of each section based on an analysis of the dramatic communication and topic. (20 points)

2. Characterisation

What do you find out about Hamlet and Horatio in this passage? In order to address this task, identify different modes of characterisation and analyse their effect. On this basis, comment on the relationship between the two characters, and the role of the additional characters present on stage. (30 points)

3. Rhetoric

Describe the dominant stylistic level in the passage (state your evidence). At what point do the characters use a different stylistic level (again, state your evidence) and for which purpose? (20 points)

4. Wider Context:

Name one other passage in the same play which corresponds or contrasts with the current passage **in one particular aspect** (e.g. communicative situation, characterisation, etc.). Briefly describe the nature and significance of the correspondence or contrast and relate this to **one of the central themes** of the drama. (30p)