

BM7, WiSe 2012/13, 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 *Othello*: Act IV, Sc. 1, ll. 167-206 (“How shall I murder him, Iago?” – “Good, good, the justice of it pleases; very good!”). (NOTE: Use the text of the Arden edition, 3rd series, ed. E. A. J. Honigmann)

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 with which you have been working in the tutorials. In fairness to everybody else, any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

Close Analysis of the Passage:

(Bear in mind the connections between the following individual aspects.)

1. **Characterisation:** Who characterises whom and with what techniques? Identify different modes of characterisation and analyse their effect. (30p)
2. How can your findings about characterisation be accounted for on the basis of **dramatic communication**? Against the background of this analysis, divide the passage into sections and give a structured summary of it. (30p)
3. **Rhetoric:** Describe the dominant stylistic level in the passage (state your evidence). Can you detect changes in the stylistic levels at any point? State the possible reasons for such changes. (10p)
4. Looking at the **Wider Context:**
(You should build on your response to one or several of the earlier questions.)
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)