

Film Fantasy and the Bard

Assignment I- Topic Selection for Research Paper

Due Wednesday, July 7

During the course of the semester you will develop a research paper, six-eight pages in length, exploring any of the ideas or issues raised in the course. Your focus should, of course, relate to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in some substantial way. Feel free to reference any of the films or written material from the course. In addition you must use at least three outside sources relating either to the works or to the issues you have chosen to explore. In this paper I am looking for you to tackle some of the tough questions we have posed, not to just organize a set of facts.

Because writing, in its truest sense, is a mode of active dialogue, your writing should pose questions that will both facilitate and perpetuate discourse. Bearing this fact in mind, for Wednesday, please generate a list of 4-6 well developed questions that reflect your areas of interest in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, while at the same time giving consideration to the dichotomies that we've been exploring in our class discussions thus far.

- Adaptation vs. Interpretation
- Film vs. Theatre
- Text vs. Performance
- Authorial Intent vs. Audience Perception
- Fidelity vs. Accessibility

A well developed question is one that illustrates careful reflection on the topic at hand. It should delve deeper into the text than mere observation and should elicit a thoughtful and well-developed response. A good critical question will often consist of several sentences and smaller questions, so give each large question as much space as it needs. As you write your own questions, reflect on the types of questions that were posed to you in Assignment C.

Please note that these questions are the first stage of a writing process. Consequently, your questions should be specific enough to focus your thoughts and research, while remaining flexible enough to grow and evolve as the semester progresses, your perceptions of the play change, and your ideas grow in sophistication. Remember that this will be a research paper, so imagine what kinds of external sources each question might allow you to consult.

Assignment II- Annotated Bibliography

Due Wednesday, July 14

On Monday (7/12) we will have a session at Uris library learning to use the resources available to us. Using the resources explored, develop an annotated bibliography of critical material. Topics on film and theatre might include adaptation of Shakespeare to film, differences in film and theatre as media, the visual languages used in film or theatre, visual interpretations of text, etc. The focus of your own search should relate to the questions you hope to explore in your final research paper. For the bibliography, list at least eight sources, of which no more than three can be electronic, at least two of which must be books, and at least two must relate to Shakespeare. While you may **not** use any of the films, articles, or other materials the course provides you for any of your eight sources, they might provide a starting point for your search. The annotation should be a brief description of the content of the source and its relation to your topic. Note that materials provided in the class (the films, texts, and articles), while important sources for your research paper, are not included in the eight you are required to submit at this time.

Assignment III- Introduction and Thesis

Due Wednesday, July 21

Having discussed our topics in class and begun the process of refining your own, write an introduction to your research paper. The function of this introduction should be to engage your reader, making him want to read on, and to state your thesis in a way that allows you to develop it in a compelling manner. Keep in mind that it will most likely take more than a few sentences to accomplish this.