**Final Essay, English 104: Drama Unit**

You will be writing about one play and contrasting the experience of reading the play with watching a video of the play (all of the plays are available online on YouTube). The essay will be a compare/contrast essay and written in the first person. You will not have to do any research for it, but you will need to carefully read the play and **then** watch a theatrical version online. Read the play first; how do you visualize the play being acted? Write down **your** version of how the drama unfolds in your mind: what do the actors look like? What does the set look like? How do you imagine a scene?

Look at the plays in the book, and the video clips in Blackboard’s “Course Content” section\* to decide which play appeals to you. Analyze how the video of the play differs from your imagined version of the play and suggest how you think a scene or act from the play should be staged. Explain your rationale.

The deadline for the three-page essay will be Saturday, December 18th (the same date as for the final).

You have the option of creating a multi-media project using PowerPoint or another software product (ask me for permission if you have another software product in mind) where you can compare and contrast the written version with the online version of the play and incorporate music and portions of the video version of the play. For example, you could suggest music for your scene/act and compare it to the music used in the video version.

Elements of the play that can be addressed in a written essay or PowerPoint are:

* Actors: who do you imagine acting out the roles in the scene or act you have chosen? If you don’t have living actors in mind, you can create a description of how you want the character to look.
* Costumes: create individual costumes for each of the characters in the scene or act.
* Set design: be as precise as possible in your description for the set.
* Lighting: what role does light play in your scene or act?
* Music/sound: how are you planning to utilize sound in the play?
* Diction: what accents will your characters use? What do their voices sound like?

If you are doing a PowerPoint, the text of your slides should be equivalent to a three-page paper.

Information obtained from any other source still needs to be cited—even if doing a PowerPoint.

If you write a three-page paper, it should be in MLA format.

For both a three-page paper and a PowerPoint, the video of the play and the play itself should be included on the Works Cited page. Any quotations from the play or video should be cited. Use page numbers for our textbook and minutes for the video for internal citations. For example, for page number 73, the internal citation would be: (p. 73). For the 2 minute 38 second mark of a video, it would be (2:38 minutes). You don’t need to put the end time of the video clip; just give the start time. Note: you may be asked to do this differently in another class.

I want you to respond thoughtfully to this project. Grading will reflect your thoughtful analysis and creativity. Standard writing conventions apply: 12-point font; 1-inch margins, MLA formatting.