

LITS2207 INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE

SEMESTER II, 2017-2018

TERM PAPER

This Term Paper is based on Module One: Histories and Comedies.

Answer **ONE (1)** of the following questions:

Henry IV, Part I

1. "Thus ever did rebellion find rebuke" (5.5.1) at the hands of "anointed majesty" (4.3.40). Is *King Henry IV, Part I* a "play with a conservative political agenda"?
2. Examine the comic elements in *King Henry IV, Part I*, focusing in particular on the role played by Falstaff.
3. "The play may be named after him, but King Henry IV is not the hero." Do you agree? If so, who is the chief protagonist and why?
4. "Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere; / Nor can one England brook a double reign, / Of Harry Percy and the Prince of Wales" (5.4.65-67). To what degree is the dialectic between Hotspur and Prince Hal central to the play?

Measure for Measure

5. "Like doth quit like, and Measure still for Measure" (5.1.409). Explore Shakespeare's treatment of justice in *Measure for Measure*.
6. "A problem comedy." Discuss, in the light of this comment, whether *Measure for Measure* deserves to be classified as a comedy.
7. "A gentleman of all temperance" (3.2.231) or "A very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow" (3.2.136). With which evaluation of the Duke does the play seem to side, in your view?
8. "A victim pure and simple of a patriarchal world." Do you agree with this assessment of Isabella?

DEADLINE: 5 pm, Thursday March 22, 2018.

LENGTH: 10 pages maximum (typewritten, double-spaced)

CLOSE READING: In your answer, you should refer closely to the play in question.

ESSAY WRITING: It is your responsibility to submit a *well-written* essay in response to one of the questions listed above. Please note that LITS2207, like all other Level II and III courses in Literatures in English, is not designed

to teach you how to write an essay. It is assumed, rather, that you are equipped with the basic skills of essay writing of the sort tackled in the Level I Foundation Language courses. If you have problems, severe or otherwise, expressing yourself on paper coherently and correctly, please seek advice as to how you may fix them. Please also consult my own Essay Writing Guidelines posted online for essential advice on putting your term paper together.