

Formal Essay Three: Seeing/Reading a Great Play: Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Write an essay explaining your experiences with seeing, reading and engaging with the play, with the essay structured in three parts. Students are advised to do some writing at each reading stage along the way:

Part One: Before we started:

What expectations did you have?

What did you look forward to—or dread?

What did you already know about this play?

What did you think would be challenging about the reading?

How did you expect to meet those challenges?

Part Two: Having seen two film versions of the play, and as you read the script, consider:

Are any of your pre-reading ideas changing significantly? If so, how?

What interpretive decisions or production choices have you noticed that you either support or wish to challenge? Why?

What pleases or interests you? Why?

What displeases or bores you? Why?

What puzzles or challenges you? Why?

What have you done to meet any challenges the reading presented?

Part Three: After reading the script, consider these questions:

What did you enjoy about reading/seeing/discussing the play?

What big differences have you seen between different productions?

Which did you prefer—and/or which would you recommend to others—and why?

What questions about the play do you still crave answers to?

What new understanding(s)—of the play, or theatrical/film storytelling, or life and how to live it—has your reading and viewing led you to?

Typed draft due Wednesday, May 7th. ESSAY DUE: Wednesday, May 14th.

Suggested length: 3 pages, typed, 1.5-spaced, using 11- or 12-point font.

Available film versions: Welles, 1948; Kurosawa, 1957; Goold, 2010; Polanski, 1971.