

Name: _____

World Literature Analysis Seminar & WoHum

Date: _____

Ms. Grgas

Othello Culmination Project

Directions: Please select one of the following essays to complete as your final culmination for the *Othello* unit.

Essay Option 1: The Evolution of the Role of Women from Shakespearean Times to Today

For this essay, the sources you are to draw from are the play *Othello*, “Advice to the Newly Married Lady” by Samuel K. Jennings (1808), and “Othello: A Postcolonial-Feminist Reading” by A Balu Vijayaraghavan.

By exploring the characters of Desdemona, Emilia, and Bianca, you are to establish a stance that evaluates the expectations of women during that time. How did the characters fulfill the guidelines outlined? Who aligned themselves with these guidelines? Who rebelled against the norm? When and why?

When comparing and contrasting these findings, you should discuss the differences in the way the women were portrayed in the play and in the film *O*. If that film is used as a reflection of how far we have come as a society regarding women’s rights, then what conclusions can be drawn?

Essay Option 2: Iago and the Psychology of Evil

For this essay, the sources you are to draw from are the play *Othello*, “What Makes Good People Do Bad Things” by Melissa Dittman (2004), and “The Apologetics of Evil” by Richard Raatzsch and reviewed by Colin McGinn (2010).

Your job is to explore Iago’s psyche throughout the course of the play. Your thesis requires that you take a stance regarding the motivation of his duplicitous and malicious nature. What is at the core of his decisions? How did the end justify the means?

Whether you choose option 1 or option 2 , you must use internal citations from the play and the sources noted above to substantiate your stance. Your essay must have a *minimum* of three internal citations, or a minimum of one citation per source noted. The works cited page has already been done for you (see reverse).

***If you are enrolled in WoHum, historical references are expected. What historical figure supports/disproves your claim? What historical event supports/disproves your claim?

This essay must be **uploaded to turnitin by Monday, May 21st** at 11:59 pm and printed out, stapled, and turned in to me by **Tuesday, May 22nd**.

Works Cited

Dittmann, Melissa. "What Makes Good People Do Bad Things?" *CommonLit*, Common Lit,

www.commonlit.org/texts/what-makes-good-people-do-bad-things.

Jennings, Samuel K. "Advice to the Newly Married Lady." *CommonLit*, Common Lit,

www.commonlit.org/texts/advice-to-the-newly-married-lady.

McGinn, Colin. "The Apologetics of Evil: The Case of Iago // Notre Dame Philosophical

Reviews // University of Notre Dame." *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, Princeton

UP, 15 Jan. 2010, ndpr.nd.edu/news/the-apologetics-of-evil-the-case-of-iago/.

Vijayaraghayan, A Balu. "Othello: A Postcolonial-Feminist Reading." *Academia.edu*, The

English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

When citing Shakespeare's *Othello*, your citations need to follow this format: (Act, Scene, Page #). For example, a quotation taken from Act IV, Scene 1, page 47 would look like this: (IV, 1, 45)