

BM1, WiSe 2008/09, ASSIGNMENT 2 – Analysing Drama

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together and with punch holes on the left, but not bound in any kind of folder or wrapping. Every assignment must include a “title-page” and the statement on plagiarism.

Analyse the following passage from *Hamlet* : Act I, Sc. 2, ll. 159-194 (“Hail to your Lordship.” – “For God’s love let me hear!”).

(NOTE: Use the text of the Arden edition, 3rd series, ed. Ann Thomson and Neil Taylor)

Please analyse this text, addressing the following tasks and questions. You may write up to *three* pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of the Literary and Cultural Studies style sheet (http://www.angl-am.uni-oldenburg.de/downloads/leitfaden_wiss_arb_wise_09-10.pdf). Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored. Also, there will be a deduction of at least 10% if your paper does not conform to the style sheet.

Close Analysis of the Passage:

(Bear in mind the connections between the following individual aspects.)

1. Divide the passage into sections and give a structured summary of it, based on an analysis of **dramatic communication** and **topic(s)**. (20 points)
2. **Characterisation:** What do you find out about Hamlet and Horatio in this passage? In order to address this task, identify different modes of characterisation and analyse their effect. On this basis, and on the basis of your findings in question 1, comment on the relationship between the two characters, and the role of the additional characters present on stage. (30 points)
3. **Rhetoric:** Describe the dominant stylistic level in the passage (state your evidence). At what point do the characters use a different stylistic level (again, state your evidence) and for which purpose? (20 points)

Looking at the Wider Context:

(You should build on your response to one or several of the earlier questions.)

4. Name one other passage in the same play which corresponds or contrasts with the current passage **in one particular aspect** (e.g. communicative situation, characterisation, etc.). Briefly describe the nature and significance of the correspondence or contrast and relate this to **one of the central themes** of the drama. (30p)