SHAKESPEARE FILM ANALYSIS

More than 400 modern film and stage adaptations of William Shakespeare’s plays exist, making Shakespeare the most filmed author of all time in any language. Twenty-five film versions of Hamlet are available alone, and these statistics do not reflect the hundreds of live stage adaptations of Shakespeare’s films enacted every week across the globe. Each director makes conscious choices when adapting a Shakespeare play. Where and when will the film be set? Which actors will best portray the roles? What scenes will be added or deleted? When and how will the lines be enacted ironically? This assignment will be devoted to watching a film adaptation of one of Shakespeare’s plays and analyzing the transformation from written text to an audio/visual affordance.

Assignment
Write a 1000-word analysis of a film version of one of the following plays: King Lear, Henry V, or Much Ado About Nothing.

• A brief history of film adaptations of the play (how may films? Who are the notable directors?)
• An overview of the film’s stylistic choices: set in medieval Europe or contemporary corporate America?
• Several film stills captured from the film or via Google Images.
• A comparison of at least two specific scenes in the film to the corresponding scene in the original play. How is the scene represented or interpreted on screen? Describe and quote from both the film and the play. Avoid superficial similarities and differences, such as setting and costume. Instead, focus on substantive themes and characterization differences between the source and the adaptation.
• Conclude with one way in which the film contributed to your understanding/appreciation of Shakespeare.

Some of these versions are available via the library. Others you can access online.

Audience: Imagine your audience to be other students at Emory Oxford and other faculty members, all of whom will have read the Shakespeare play(s) you are analyzing.
**Submission**: Submit your Analysis on Canvas.

**Grading**: This assignment is worth 20% of your overall grade.