

Research Paper: Comparative Literature Shakespeare

*Visit the Shakespeare page on the website and read about the Elizabethan worldview along with background on both plays.

Read *Othello* before watching the film in class. Keep track of Othello and Iago's soliloquies in the play. **What do we learn about each character through their soliloquies? How does Iago manipulate others and why? How does Othello fall?** Use the Othello questions on the website as a guide when reading (These questions are not an assignment). With a partner, answer the **book questions** and **write an essay for the following prompt:**

*In a novel or play, a confidant (male) or a confidante (female) is a character, often a friend or relative of the hero or heroine, whose role is to be present when the hero or heroine needs a sympathetic listener to confide in. Frequently the result is, as Henry James remarked, that the confidant or confidante can be as much "the reader's friend as the protagonist's." However, the author sometimes uses this character for other purposes as well. Choose a confidant or confidante from a novel or play of recognized literary merit and write an essay in which you discuss the various ways this character functions in the work. You may write your essay on one of the following novels or plays or on another of comparable quality. Use evidence from the play in every answer. See the *Literary Analysis: Drama* for help.*

Due: _____

Read *Hamlet* before watching the play in class. Stay one act ahead of the film. Complete the **Hamlet study guide** while reading. Answer the **book questions** along with the "**Hamlet questions for discussion**" found on the website. **Trace Hamlet's growth through all of his soliloquies. Why are there no soliloquies in Act V? Use evidence from the play in all of your answers.** See the *Literary Analysis: Drama* for help.

Due: _____

***Multiple-choice tests, quizzes, and essays tests may follow each act or the entire play.**

Write a research paper comparing and contrasting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* to *Othello*. Choose a topic/issue/idea that is present in both plays. See the website for ideas, resources, and help. You must use a minimum of 10 **scholarly sources**. You must visit a university or get access to a university database to complete the research. I will explain the process in class. The paper will be 24 pages max. (12 font, Times Roman, double-spaced, 1" margins). The paper must adhere to the MLA format and be **flawless** to receive an A. You must turn in all of your research in the form of note cards (we will go over the note cards in class). You may work with up to 3 other students in any AP Lit. period. Choose groups, read both plays, and begin working. **Due:** _____