

As two of you have perspicaciously noticed, the syllabus assignment for Tuesday reads "(as relevant) prepare section reports." Not coincidentally, the two who noticed have already fulfilled their Metamedia "homework" assignment: that is, they are among the 6 who have made at least three comments using the Hamlet images online. Another 5 of you have responded to a couple or at least one image, leaving 6 more of our number invisible within the world of our online forum. The comments so far have been thoughtful and apt, and I look forward to hearing more (since it's your big chance to talk about, say, most of the second half of the play!).

Now, I know you are busily working on your essays today, and I don't want to push you too hard. So here's where we stand:

I'd like you to get your essays to me tomorrow, by 5 p.m. That's the first priority.

Secondly, before Tuesday's class, I'd like you to have read Henry IV, Part I in its entirety. In my ideal world, Sholie and/or Valerie will give reports on that play during Tuesday's class. (If this is not to be, please let me know.)

Thirdly, those who have fallen behind will want to catch up on the Metamedia site, with the result that everybody will be represented with at least 3 comments. (Many images still awaiting a fresh perspective, by the way!) If you can't do that before Tuesday, that's okay: then do it later in the week.

Fourthly, we come back to where I began: Section reports. These are the reports on secondary readings as noted on the syllabus requirements. I'd like each person to give one VERY BRIEF but INSIGHTFUL presentation (5 minutes maximum, planned out in advance so the time is well spent) on either a section of the companion materials in the Henry IV, Part I volume, or on an essay in The Tempest volume as part of a scholarly roundtable. We'll be getting to the latter play at the end of the term, so you might want to think hard about whether you'll be less busy then than now....

I do want EVERYBODY to read pp. 195-221 in the Hodgdon, whether or not you do a section report. However, you can do that over the coming week if you are too busy with other tasks. (Do note that Thursday is a rehearsal day for your groups, so no new reading for that.) Some of this material should be helpful for the performance groups doing both Henry IV and Henry V.

For those who are not overly burdened at present, or foresee an opening to prepare such a report in the near future, I shall list below the segments into which I've divided the companion readings, and you should feel free to reply (to the whole group, so we all know what's taken) and claim a segment you'd like to present. Any truly organized and/or lucky individuals who might be able to prepare a segment for Tuesday's class should let me know ASAP. Others will go the following week (more on Thursday 15th than Tuesday 13th, because we'll also have a guest designer with us on the 13th). And those who prefer to wait until our last play can let me know that too.

Here are the segments from the Hodgdon edition (as you'll note, all reporters on a particular chapter will want to read the intro. to that chapter's material, and then will focus on one portion of the material for the report):

Historiography and the Uses of History:

- 1) Intro. and Edward Hall's "Union...": read pp. 121-125 and 126-139
- 2) Intro. and Holinshed's "Chronicles...": read pp. 121-128 and 139-157
- 3) Intro. and Daniel's "Civil Wars...": read pp. 121-125 and 157-168

Civic Order and Rebellion:

- 1) Intro. and "An Homily...": read pp. 169-172 and 172-179
- 2) Intro. and John Ponet: read pp. 169-172 and 179-194

Cultural Territories:

[Everyone reads the introduction, pp. 195-221]

- 1) England/London: pp. 221-241
- 2) Theatre and the London underworld: pp. 241-257
- 3) Women and Wales: pp. 257-274

The "Education" of a Prince:

- 1) Intro. plus Ascham's The Schoolmaster: pp. 275-281 and 281-291
- 2) Intro. plus The Famous Victories...: pp. 275-281 and 291-308
- 3) Intro. plus Machiavelli, The Brut, and Speed: pp. 275-281 and 309-317

Honor and Arms:

- 1) 318-348 (pick out the parts you think most relevant)

The Oldcastle Controversy:

- 1) Intro. and Foxe: pp. 349-360 and 360-372
- 2) Intro. and Holinshed, Drayton etc.: pp. 349-360 and 372-391

As you can see, up to 14 people CAN do section reports now, and I'd like to make sure at least 6 people DO do section reports now (one per chapter as the minimum). The sooner you choose, the more choice you have!

All best wishes and encouragement as you compose, revise, and proofread your essays,
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