

## Paper 3

### Prompt

For this paper, I would like you to write a thesis-driven essay that examines how the adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* from the syllabus develops one of the themes below.

How should you think of your perspective in writing this paper:

- First, we are starting from the premise that Shakespeare has written three important themes (or major ideas) into the text of his play. These are “**power and control,**” “**freedom and imprisonment,**” and “**reconciliation and forgiveness.**” (I have included detailed descriptions of these themes below.)
- Second, Shakespeare included very little stage direction and scene descriptions in his plays. Therefore, directors and actors have a lot of freedom in how they stage his plays. In fact, they must make decisions about how the scenes will be performed in order to emphasize various aspects of the plays.
- Third, your paper should be an evaluation of the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of these choices as they are made by the director of the specific stage adaptation you are watching for this class. (The one listed on the syllabus) **Your paper should NOT be an analysis of these themes in the play in general; it should focus on the specific Barry Avrich adaptation.**

### Format

- Your paper should have a main idea (thesis) statement that includes: 1. What theme you are addressing?; 2. Whether you think the adaptation illustrates that theme?; 3. Why you think this way?
- You should choose three or four key moments from the film that illustrate your viewpoint.
- Word count: 1000-1200 words
- Times New Roman
- Double-Spaced

### Due Date:

02/16

Upload your paper to this [Google Drive Folder](#)

## Themes

(Developed by Chat-GPT3)

**Power and Control:** Throughout the play, power dynamics are central, whether it's between Prospero and his servants, Prospero and his brother Antonio, or even between the colonizers and the colonized. Prospero's magical abilities give him control over the island and its inhabitants, reflecting themes of colonialism, mastery, and manipulation.

**Freedom and Imprisonment:** The play delves into the concept of freedom and captivity on multiple levels. Prospero's exile to the island mirrors his imprisonment of spirits like Ariel and Caliban. Characters like Ariel seek freedom from servitude, while Caliban yearns for freedom from subjugation. Miranda also experiences a form of captivity, shielded from the outside world by Prospero until she meets Ferdinand. The island itself acts as a prison for some characters but a place of freedom and discovery for others.

**Reconciliation and Forgiveness:** "The Tempest" ultimately revolves around the themes of reconciliation and forgiveness. Prospero's grand plan, orchestrated through the events of the play, is to bring about forgiveness and reconciliation among the characters. He forgives those who wronged him, such as his brother Antonio, and orchestrates the union of Ferdinand and Miranda, symbolizing reconciliation between different parties. The resolution of the play sees characters letting go of past grievances and embracing forgiveness, leading to a sense of closure and harmony.