SHAKESPEARE’S TRAGEDIES
SHAKESPEARE AND FILM
CONTEMPORARY THEATRE IN ENGLISH

DOCUMENTING SOURCES (AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEM)

(1) Reproducing another author’s ideas or words without making the necessary acknowledgment is plagiarism and is absolutely unacceptable in academic work. This includes materials found on the internet.

(2) Two types of documentation are used: brief parenthetical in-text citations and a works cited list at the end of your written essay. Each quotation must be documented in both ways.

(3) In-text parenthetical references: quotes from both primary and secondary sources must always be followed by the corresponding bibliographical reference in brackets, according to the following basic format: author’s surname (unless you have already mentioned it in your own text), year of publication (of the edition you have actually used), colon followed by a space, page number(s). For example: (Donaldson 1998: 115) or (Frye 1957b: 24-5).

(4) Short quotations (up to four lines) appear in the main text between double inverted commas. For example:

As Donaldson claims, “The staircase motif is again used in a thematically significant way after the ‘mousetrap’ scene, when Hamlet makes a long ascent to his mother’s chamber” (1998: 113).

(5) Longer quotations are indented and single spaced. Omissions, which should never damage or distort the author’s argument, are indicated by means of three dots in square brackets. For example:

This is Anthony Davies’s assessment of the visual impact of Olivier’s Henry V:

The second respect in which external time affected the spatial strategy of the film lies in the film’s special relevance to the wartime circumstances of Britain in 1943-4. Like the films of Eisenstein, Olivier’s Henry V was directed partly towards social control. In its endeavour to project a romantic illusion, the film incorporates colour-plate illustrations from the original manuscript of Les Très Riches Heures [...] The use of these pictures as a basis of set design gives the film a spatial delicacy and visual charm which justifies their own artistic validity. Yet,
at the same time, the pictorial stylization moves the film close to the realm of the fairytale, whose brightly coloured glamour and spectacle was highly appropriate for the aesthetic appetite of the time. (1988: 27)

(6) Although you are expected to substantiate your arguments with pertinent quotes, the excessive use of quotation should be avoided. If you paraphrase someone else’s arguments, you should acknowledge your source as in (3) above.

(7) At the end of the essay you should include a list of Works Cited, in alphabetical order, according to the following basic formats:

(a) Books:

(b) Articles or chapters in a book:

(c) Articles in an academic journal:

(d) A newspaper or magazine article:


(e) An on-line publication:


(f) A film:


(8) Notes: the author-date reference system renders most footnotes or endnotes unnecessary, so their use should be limited to additional commentary that you cannot easily accommodate within the main body of the text. Notes must not be used to provide bibliographical references, since these must appear in parenthetical form within the main text, as explained above.