

III. Essay. Answer one of the questions below in a five-paragraph essay (introduction, conclusion, three body paragraphs). Make sure you use at least two specific examples (although you don't need to produce quotations) in each body paragraph to support your claims (and sub-claims), and make sure you carefully analyze those examples and explain what they mean in the context of the play, and in relation to your thesis (50%).

1. Using specific examples from 1 *Henry IV* and/or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, comment on and analyze at least three ideas about kingship or leadership (or politics) that Shakespeare seems to be exploring with these characters. You might want to compare and contrast Theseus, Henry, and/or Hal (or other relevant characters) as a way of developing your analysis.
2. Drawing on any of the plays we have read so far (and others that you might be familiar with, if appropriate), comment on at least three metatheatrical episodes in Shakespeare—episodes in which Shakespeare, or his characters, comment on the idea of the theater itself, or use theatrical techniques in their interactions. Your analysis should try to explain what Shakespeare is trying to achieve in each instance within the context of the play or plays in question—is there a particular social, political, or philosophical issue that Shakespeare seems to be commenting on by alluding to theatrical practices and conventions?
3. Using specific examples from 1 *Henry IV* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, comment on the ways in which Shakespeare's plays often depict characters who flee the court or city into a "green" or "holiday" world in which social pressures are relaxed and "play" provides possible solutions to the characters' problems. Be very careful to identify and analyze (1) the social and familial pressures that originally exist in court or in the city, (2) the nature of "play" in the "green" world, and (3) the ways in which the "green" world experience affects the social pressures from which the characters originally fled.