

Take home exam:

VL Geschichte und Kultur der englischen Literatur im mentalitätshistorischen Kontext:

Horatschek: Shakespeare-Adaptionen in britischen Dramen des 20. Jahrhunderts (WS 2010/11)

Your answer should not be longer than 1,5 pages and should present an argument. You may use secondary literature (if you do, make sure that you document your sources) but do not need to. Your answer should be based on the lecture (you can use or refute positions presented in the lecture).

Do not quote from the power point presentations

- 1) Why and in which ways does the concept of intertextuality transform traditional notions of the role of the author in the process of creating and interpreting literature (1/2 page)
- 2) Choose ONE of the following pairs of pretext and intertext:
 - a) Shakespeare, *Hamlet* – Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*
 - b) Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* – Wesker, *The Merchant*
 - c) Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* – Marowitz *A Merchant*
 - d) Shakespeare *King Lear* – Bond *Lear*

Discuss, which aspects of Shakespeare's pretext are criticised in the 20th century adaptation in terms of **form** and **theme**. Relate the critique to culturally or historically specific questions and problems of the 20th century and explain, in which way Shakespeare's drama is negotiating problems or world views of his time. Please concentrate your interpretation on specific scenes in the dramas and give one or two quotes from the dramas which underline your argument. (1 page)