

English 120  
Dr. Newmark

## **ESSAY TWO**

Due: Thursday, November 20

Length: Five to Six pages

Please choose one of the following questions and answer it, with a prominently placed thesis (in the first paragraph), in a five- to six-page essay. In this essay you will need to quote from your primary texts on numerous (probably at least four) occasions. You are also required to quote from, and correctly cite following MLA guidelines, at least three scholarly sources. The articles that you use as your scholarly sources must come from peer-reviewed journals. You cannot use book reviews or abstracts as scholarly sources. The whole paper must follow MLA guidelines. Please use Times New Roman font, 12 point, and double-space throughout your paper.

1. Please pick a prose work from the first half of the semester and a poem from the second half of the semester and identify in the two a unifying theme. With what nuances is that theme considered in each work, and how does the *form* (the specific stylistic/structural qualities of the story or poem) enable those nuances?
2. Consider the parallels concerning one of these concepts--madness, religiosity, or political exigency --that exist between the play *Hamlet* and a prose work of your choosing from the first half of the semester. How do the two works you discuss show the permanence of this theme in the literary arts? How do your two chosen authors weave this theme into their texts' plots in such a way that some lasting, personal meaning emerges for a reader? How are their approaches notably different?