

05/06 March 2017



“About your cat, Mr. Schrödinger—I have good news and bad news.”

image from <http://blogpeda.ac-poitiers.fr/col-chauvigny-techno-show/files/2015/07/Chat.jpg>

Greetings, Wise Fools—

For those of you who are big fans of cat cartoons that are irrelevant to the rest of the day’s class plan, that graphic up there is for you! Enjoy! It’s the only one you’ll get! And you may need a physics teacher to explain why it’s funny!

Here’s how we’ll roll today:

1. WEDGE—Let’s consider current events! Chief executives who have represented themselves as strong authoritarian leaders currently govern both Egypt and the United States. Reliable polling institutions, however, suggest that neither leader enjoys broad support among his people. For roughly ten minutes, jot down your thoughts about one of those leaders, or both. After tapping out those initial thoughts, move from SPECIFIC considerations about contemporary leaders to a GENERAL contemplation of leadership itself.

Try to imagine a perfect leader. What attributes must a great leader possess?

2. Leap into New Literature—We’ll distribute some books and then explore the first scene of William Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*. To establish a little background, we may consult a

document posted to our Moodle page entitled, “Julius Caesar Historical Background.” We may not.

3. Homework Preview

4. Getting a Jump on the Homework—Time permitting, of course.

Homework:

1. Dig out your handout containing the Shakespeare background reading and “Twenty Facts Every CAC Graduate Should Know About Shakespeare.” Bring the handout to class.

2. Read and take notes in a digital document on *Julius Caesar*, Act 1, Scenes 1 & 2.

While you will not find every motif in every reading assignment, your notes should pay particular attention to the following motifs in the play:

- a. Political Power (who should rule?)
- b. Fate vs Free Will
- c. The Importance of Public Speaking/Effective Rhetoric
- d. The Problem with Mobs
- e. Order vs Chaos
- f. The Private Man/The Public Politician
- g. Gender and Power
- h. Honor vs. Ambition vs. Public Duty
- i. The Metaphor of Illness and Disease
- j. Love and Friendship
- k. Blood and “Spirit”
- l. The Problem of Political Succession and/or The Transfer of Power (for example, does a political assassination ever end with only one death?)

Hint: You may want to write these motifs on a card or sheet of paper to tuck into your copy of *Julius Caesar*.

Each note should have three parts:

Motif + textual evidence (with citation) + your comment

N.B. The convention for citing Shakespeare is to indicate in parentheses the act number, scene number, and line numbers. For example, (2.1.134-136) indicates text derived from Act 2, scene 1, lines 134-136.

3. Upload your Act I Scenes 1 and 2 notes to Turnitin.com prior to the start of class.

4. Anticipate that we might have a wee quiz waiting for us.