English 2
Critical Thinking through Writing about Literature
Research Profile 2:
Encountering Ancient Narratives

Professor Lue Cobene/ Office 935
MTWRF (Online)

Submitted Friday, September 6, 2013 by
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I--Research Background

1. Date(s) Researching in the Library:

   Thursday, September 19, 2013

2. Time Spent Researching (i.e. 20 min, 4 hours, etc.)/ Specific Tasks Each Session:

   I decided to start RP 2 today. I logged online to Canvas and read the assignment
description and dived into an introductory look at the artists/works. I finally
decided on the collection of stories Thousand and One Nights to see what
qualities of human thought and culture I could be enlightened with. I found a
bunch of articles using JSTOR literary database. I settled on an article called “A
Comic Romance from the Thousand and One Nights: The Tale of Two Viziers”
and started reading it. It seemed very confusing and I thought It was just written
incredibly complex. I ended up falling asleep about halfway through the article.
Total Time: 80 minutes

   I woke up and finished reading and marking up the article. Once I got to the third
section, Love, things started to make sense. I probably was just tired earlier.
Anyway, I ended up liking the article, and I want to read the original story, Tale
of Two Viziers.
   Total Time: 82 minutes

   [Thursday, September 19, 2013, 6:05p – 6:35p, SCC Drafting Department]
   I went to the Library during the free time within my drafting class to complete the
Librarian Consultation.
   Total Time: 30 minutes
[Sunday, September 15, 2013, 8:30p – 10:45p, Home]
I completed the rest of RP2. Granted, I did recycle some of the blocks of text I used for my CRRJ and SL. But those texts are meant to be be used elsewhere as well. I then submitted the RP.
Total Time: 135 minutes

Grand Total Time Spent: 327 minutes (5.45 hours)

3. Librarian Consulted (Full name and Phone Number/Email Address) / Nature of Inquiry/ Specific Advice Given:

Librarian: Frances Nelson
707-864-7132
Reference Librarian
frances.nelson@solano.edu

Frances Nelson guided me through the same sources of information that I had learned through LR10 and E1. We went over accessing the large article database, citation help, and other features of the library homepage. I tried asking her if she knew any other tips or tricks a student like me might not yet know. She explained that all her students come to her with the same questions and that “you students already know everything there is to know!”

Mrs. Nelson did point me to the “e-books” link on the library homepage which can be used to search from a collection of books stored online. Unfortunately, the search is temporarily broken as each search resulted in an error message, “Search is temporarily unavailable. We apologize for any inconvenience.”

Mrs. Nelson also showed me an interesting database for looking up dissertations and doctorate theses written by professors. This is an amazing feature to be able to search for the kind of papers that my professors have written. Mrs. Nelson and I searched for a dissertation she wrote in 1995 and sure enough, it was there. I also searched for my engineering professor, Dr. Lutz and her 183 page, 1995 dissertation on Elastic and thermoelastic behavior of materials with continuously-varying elastic moduli popped up. A very cool feature!

4. Websites/Archives/Indexes Consulted:

JSTOR academic article database
EbscoHOST academic database
Brill academic publishing house

5. Key-Word Search Algorithms Used: (method of searching)

    Thousand and One Nights ➔ The Tale of Two Viziers
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II—Critical Text Data and Formal Reference

6. Critical Text Genre (i.e., literary history, genre analysis, thematic analysis, critical biography, cultural biography, conceptual analysis, linguistic/stylistic analysis, reader reception analysis, sociological analysis, psychological analysis):

   Critical Analysis of the Comedic features of *Thousand and One Night's, The Tale of Two Vizers*

7. Critical Text Title (main and subtitle):

   A Comic Romance from the Thousand and One Nights: The Tale of Two Vizers

8. Critical Text Author(s):

   Andras Hamori

9. Publisher/Text Source:

   Arabic/Islamic Classical and Modern Literary Journal, *Arabica*

10. Year/Season/Date of Original and Most Recent Publication:

    Volume 30, Fasc. 1, (February 1983)

11. Place of Publication (city and country):

    Brill Publishing House
    **Head Office:** Leiden, Netherlands
    **US Office:** Boston, Massachusetts.

12. Library Call Number/ or Physical Location in Collection:

    Jstor Online Database for scholarly journals, primary sources and books.

13. Length in Pages/Approximate Word Count:

    14 pages, Approximately 8,300 words

14. Position in Source Volume (i.e., page range in source book, anthology, or periodical):

    Pgs. 39-56
15. Full MLA Reference Listing:


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III—Back-up Resources (Scope of Information)

16. Three Additional Similar Sources (Give full MLA-2009 citation plus brief annotation of the source focus, content, style [25 to 50 words for each reference]):


This work analyzes why the famous Arabic trickster character of Juha does appear within the *Thousand and One Nights*.


This work analyzes the genre of Romance within the *Thousand and One Nights*.


This work takes a critical look the possible authors of the tales within *Thousand and One Nights*.

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IV—Critical Text Content

17. General Subject of Critical Text (e.g., the theme and situation of the work):

Critical Analysis of *The Tale of Two Viziers*

18. Specific Focus of Critical Text (e.g., the particular ‘spin’ or ‘spotlight’ on a situation):

A contrasting look on *The Tale of Two Viziers* for its comedic and romantic elements of love, time and pattern, strip-tease, and ransom.
19. **Primary Audience** (the original audience for this critical text—culture, society, class):

- Arabic/Islamic Researchers and Scholars
- *Thousand and One Nights* Researchers and Scholars
- Classic Literature Students and Scholars
- Arabic/Islamic citizens
- Educated, curious individuals

20. **Outline of Critical Text Structure** (Give numbered outline of article segments, chapters order and contents, etc):

1. Patterned tales (pg 1-5)
2. The theme of time in pattern and plot (pg. 5-7)
3. Love (7-10)
4. Strip-Tease (pg, 10-14)
5. Stories of Ransom (pg. 14-17)
6. Synopsis of *A Tale of Two Viziers* (pg. 18-19)

21. **Summary of Critical Text**: (300-500 words):

Author Andras Hamori takes investigates *The Tale of Two Viziers* as a comic romance with a critical examination of the significant story elements, themes, plot and characters. First Homario begins with an introduction on the prime example of *The Tale of Two Viziers* as a patterned tale; a story that follows distinct patterns and convention of prose. The second portion examines at the juxtaposing of love and time themes. The repetition of coincidence and its significance is also investigated. Love, as a third major component is analyzed and the ways it is linked, twisted and turned between the characters. The *strip-tease* is then examined as a fourth symbolic tool as a major comedic element. Second to last, a connection with multiple other stories from the *Thousand and One Nights* as *stories of ransom* are looked at. Lastly a plot synopsis of the *The Tale of Two Viziers* is included.

22. **Most Interesting Passage** (single quotation of 100-300 words, plus page citation—or series of up to three shorter quotations, same aggregate word-count, plus page citation) plus a brief comment as to why this passage(s) is interesting/important to you:

Let us now return to Badr ad-Din’s wedding. After the genies bring him to Cairo where Sitt al-Husn is about to be married to the hunchback groom, events move quickly. The poor hunchback is brusquely removed; the young woman, still thinking she must marry him, makes ready to struggle and die if she must; Badr ad-Din reassured her, pretending that she was meant for him all along.

She is very glad indeed, and in another minute she is naked.
She smiled, as was glad, and laughed sweetly, and said; “By God, this is balm to my heart. Embrace me then; hold me,” She had no other clothes on now, and she lifted her dress to her neck…

What does Badr al-Din do?

When Badr al-Din saw this, desire stirred in him and he arose and loosened his clothes. The gold purse which he had received from the Jew, and put under the end of the mattress. Then he took off his turban and hung it on the chair. Then he only had his fine shirt on, and the shirt was embroidered with gold – and then Sitt al-Husn stepped to him and drew him to her and Badr al-Din drew her to him and embraced her…

I find this excerpt to be very humorous and interesting for its commentary on human interaction.

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V—Literary Source

23. Literary Artist (full name, dates, dominant level of society, and chief culture of the literary artist that your article profiles):

The Thousand and One Nights is a ancient collection of texts from various authors now unknown.

24. Text Genre (i.e., prose [Fiction, belles letters], poetry [lyric, ode, elegy, meditation, narrative, epic], play [mime, ceremony, drama, comedy, performance, script].):

Prose

25. Specific Literary Work (the short work or significant excerpt of a longer work which you read to experience first-hand the literary artist discussed in the critical article you profile):

The Tale of Two Viziers

26. Significant Primary Quote (quote of 50 to 100 words from the literary artist’s text itself which gives the ‘flavor’ of language, style, and subject matter):

…Then she stripped off her outer gear and she threw open her chemise from the neck downward and showed her person and all the rondure of her hips. When Badr al-Din saw the glorious sight, his desires were roused, and he arose and doffed his clothes, and wrapping up in his bam, trousers the purse of gold which he had taken from the Jew and which contained the thousand dinars, he laid it
under the edge of the bedding. Then he took off his turban and set it upon the settle atop of his other clothes, remaining in his skullcap and fine shirt of blue silk laced with gold. Whereupon the Lady of Beauty drew him to her and he did likewise. Then he took her to his embrace and found her a pearl unpierced, and he abaged her virginity and had joyance of her youth in his virility; and she conceived by him that very night. Then he laid his hand under her head and she did the same and they embraced and fell asleep in each other's arms, as a certain poet said of such lovers in these couplets:

27. MLA Citation for Literary Source:

(Using Richard Burton’s Translation of the Volumes.)


28. List of Other Significant/Major Works by the Literary Artist (in MLA-style alphabetical order):

(Author Unknown, but additional stories form *Thousand and One Nights are as follows*)


Alā’ ad-Dīn and The Wonderful Lamp
The Tale of Zayn al-Asnam
The Caliph's Night Adventure

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V—Connections and Extensions

29. Related Works (works by same author of the critical work which are similar; and/or works by another critical author which are similar; and/or works in another knowledge domain which are similar—plus brief summary [25-50 words] for each similar work mentioned):


30. Personal Comments/Response: Connections to Other Study Topics (500-800 words or more):

I find this very humorous. I didn’t notice the folly of Badr al-Din’s awkwardness when reading the two excerpts. But once Hamori explained it, I almost laughed. The silliness and amateur manner in which Badr al-Din presents himself to his lover makes anyone, man or woman, to shake their head in dismay. Just look at the size of the text which narrates the length of time for each character to get naked. It takes Badr al-Din twice as long in text, but in context, much longer. Sitt al-Husn is bare in an instant, while Badr al-Din slowly and clumsily removes his clothes. It’s really quite funny. As a male, I should remember this and strive not to replicate his graceless display. No, get right down to business!

On a secondary note. I find it really unbelievable mystifying that such displays of human thought and action were recorded so long ago. It makes me realize that other than the environment that we live in, we as humans haven’t changed at all in the way we think and act. Living in this modern era, we have an arrogant attitude that we are better than our ancestors when quite the opposite is true. It makes me realize how much we take for granted, and how much wisdom we could gain from reading the literature of our ancestors.

31. What Other Resources Did You Use to Make Sense of your Primary Text? (List other resources in MLA reference format, and offer a brief description of what such source(s) did to help your comprehension):

JSTOR academic article database
EbscoHOST academic database
Brill academic publishing house