***Twelfth Night* Lecture Series**

Notes on “Smile or Die”

1. What seems to be most highly valued in the American corporate workplace?
2. What’s wrong with thinking you can change the world with your thoughts?
3. What is “willful ignorance”?
4. What is “realism”? Why does the speaker advocate this?
5. How is optimism a form of social control?

Connection

1. Are there any times in your life where you have been told to be optimistic and to ignore feelings of despair? How did that make you feel?
2. Who in *Twelfth Night* is asked to do the same thing? What is/are the effect(s) on the characters?
3. Who are the optimists in *Twelfth Night*? Who are the pessimists? Who are the realists? Who is “willfully ignorant”? How are these people construed? That is, how did Shakespeare cast each of these groups of people?
4. Would Shakespeare agree with this lecture? Why or why not?
5. In *Twelfth Night*, what are the dangers of unflagging optimism? What are the dangers of pessimism/realism?

Extra credit: There are two typos in this video—what are they?

Notes on “Why We Love and Cheat”

1. What are the stages/characteristics of falling in love?
2. What are the similarities between love and cocaine?
3. Describe the “love drive”.
4. What are the three brain systems that evolved from mating reproduction?
5. Social changes that have impacted three brain systems

Change in job market

 Aging world population

1. What is the connection (or lack of connection) between romantic love, lust, and attachment?
2. Why do we fall in love with the people we fall in love with?

Connection

1.What do you think of Fisher’s perspective of love? What questions or new ideas did you gain from this talk?

2. Apply this talk to Twelfth Night. How could Fisher’s analysis of falling in love be applied to Viola? Orsino? Olivia? What types of love do we see in the play?

Notes on “Our Brains are Mis-wired”

1. What does the speaker say about violation of expectations?
2. What types of illusions does he show us?
3. What does “priming by experience” mean?
4. Why do we enjoy illusions?

Reflection

1. What types of illusions or disguises are present in *Twelfth Night*?
2. Which of these illusions are successful and eventually bring joy? Which are unsuccessful?
3. What does this tell you about Shakespeare’s view of each of these illusions?
4. What is the overall message about illusion and reality in *Twelfth Night*?