*Titus Andronicus* 3.1 The Lowest of the Low: Responses to violation/The making of a Revenger

CLASS WORK QUESTIONS

1. WHAT: How many different kinds of responses to violation or injustice do we see in this scene? Describe them.

For E.g., in 2.4, we see that Marcus responds with words and by falling back on poetic and historical paradigms and exemplars in his attempt to make sense of Lavinia’s mutilation. This enumeration and examination of responses continues through 3.1.

SO WHAT: What do these responses tell us about the status of Justice at this point in the play? What do they tell us about the nature of action and inaction? Consider them individually and collectively.

1. The key moments of the scene are: “what shall I do?” (3.1.104) and “Ha, ha, ha!” (3.1.263).

WHAT: What does each of these moments show us about Titus? About his relationship to the state?

SO WHAT: What is the relationship between these two utterances? How does the intervening action contribute to this relationship? What does this relationship tell us about the status of Justice at this point in the play, and about the nature and purpose of Revenge and the Revenger?