



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS PERIOD: _____

Four Humors in *Hamlet*

Given your knowledge of the four humors, what is the significance of these allusions to the four humors in *Hamlet*? What are we able to glean about their temperaments, personalities, and concerns?

Act III, scene 2

Hamlet: [*Speaking of Horatio*]

And blessed are those
Whose **blood and judgment are so well commingled**,
That they are not a pipe for Fortune's finger
To sound what stop she please. Give me that man
That is not passion's slave, and I will wear him
In my heart's core, ay, in my heart of heart,
As I do thee.

...

Guildestern: The king, sir--

Hamlet: Ay, sir, what of him?

Guildestern: Is, in his retirement, marvellous distempered.

Hamlet: With drink, sir?

Guildestern: No, my lord; rather **with cholera**.

Hamlet: Your wisdom should show itself more richer to signify this to the doctor; for me to put him to his purgation would **perhaps plunge him into far more cholera**.

Act IV, scene 7

Laertes: [*upon hearing of Ophelia's death*]

Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia,
And therefore I forbid my tears.