

English 208: Shakespeare (34645)

Spring 2014

307 Volcanology
 MWF 11-11:50
 Office Hours: MW 12-1:30

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Description:

This course will focus on four of Shakespeare's later plays, and it will provide an introduction into the language, conventions, and cultural implications of Shakespeare's work. Over the course of the term, students will enhance their proficiency with Shakespeare's language through close reading and analysis. Most importantly, students will employ interpretation to develop their own sense of Shakespeare's plays. We will be looking closely at Shakespeare's manipulation of genre, his use of language, and his building of character and representations of consciousness. Topics for discussion include: justice and government, constructions of gender and race, familial and political conflict, the development of the villain, depictions of religion, and colonial ambitions. Additionally, we will focus on the author himself, his development of themes across the plays we read, and the history of textual transmission, that is how we have the plays in the form they appear to us today.

Learning Outcomes:

This course follows the department's assessment procedure and is built around six desired learning outcomes. All work for this class, including discussions and quizzes, is designed to help you learn to

1. read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
4. write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgement and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Required Text:

The Norton Shakespeare, Vol. 2: The Later Plays (available in the Duckstore)

*We will be reading the introductions for each play, so buying this particular text is important. There are multiple used copies available in the bookstore, and you should be able to find affordable copies elsewhere.

Grading:Assignments:

Paraphrase Assignment	20%
Close Reading Assignment	25%
Short Essay	35%
Contributions	20%

Grading Scale:

The percentage ranges below will earn the following final grades. I will occasionally issue an A+ based on exceptional class performance in addition to a grade of over 98%. Grades that are on the verge (89.99, for instance) will only be rounded up for students who have a strong participation record.

93-100 (A), 90-92.99 (A-), 87-89.99 (B+), 83-86.99 (B), 80-82.99 (B-), 77-79.99 (C+), 73-76.99 (C), 70-72.99 (C-), 67-69.99 (D+), 63-66.99 (D), 60-62.99 (D-) lower (F)

Course Work:

Contributions: This class emphasizes the communication of ideas both in writing and in discussion, so your active participation in this class is essential. You will have a reading assignment due for each class session to prepare you to participate fully in class activities, which may include discussions, in-class writing, small group work, and quizzes. Anything less than full and informed involvement in all of these activities can count against your course grade. To this end, you can earn an A for contributions by

- Reading the assigned texts carefully in advance of class.
- Always bringing the text to class. **Students without a text will be asked to leave.**
- Contributing valuable or significant comments to nearly every class discussion or activity. You may contribute thoughts and ideas through the discussion board on Blackboard. **If you feel this will be a problem for you, see me early in the term.**
- Completing small quizzes throughout the term. Reading carefully and taking notes in class improve your chances for success on quizzes.

Paraphrase, Close Reading, and Short Essay Assignments: Directions for these assignments will be included in separate handouts. **Be sure you have the Paraphrase Assignment directions prior to leaving class on the first day.**

Format: Assignments should be typed, in 12-point font, be double-spaced, and have 1”-margins all around. You must cite in MLA format. Please proofread and revise your work. Extensive sloppiness and mechanical errors will result in a lower grade.

Late Work: All work is due on the date listed in the syllabus. Turning work in late will result in you losing one letter grade per day, including weekends and holidays. You may request an extension if the paper is due more than 72 hours (3 days) later, and the earlier the better: extensions are not guaranteed. In case of a looming or unexpected disaster, consideration will be given if you keep me in the loop and communicate in advance.

Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory; you are allowed three absences (excused or unexcused) this term. Additional absences will lower your final course grade by ½ a letter grade. Please notify me ahead of time if you must miss class or leave class early. Any absence after two full weeks of missed class may result in course failure. Any absence after three full weeks of missed class will result in course failure. **No further warnings will be given.** If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any work you missed. Consult your classmates for class notes and missed assignments.

If you show up to class more than ten minutes late, you will automatically be counted absent.

Academic Dishonesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. You may not turn in a paper you wrote for another class. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. This includes ideas you get from your classmates and ideas you get from websites as well as books and other media.

In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, an award of an F for the final course is standard practice. Please consult the Code of Student Conduct and Community Standards website and familiarize yourself with the policies if you do not understand what constitutes cheating or plagiarism:

<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/248/Default.aspx>

If you have having trouble writing a paper or understanding what I am looking for, please do not hesitate to contact me. I do not expect you to already know what I am teaching you, but I do expect you to come to me if you are struggling or need clarification on assignment instructions. Extra help is always available; please make sure you take full advantage of the help offered.

A note on using online summaries, paraphrases, and other sources: Your writing and contributions for this class should reflect your own inquiry into the texts. You have something valuable to contribute, and there is usually not one “correct” interpretation. To this end, remember that online summaries are other people’s interpretations. They reflect the choices other people make about what to include and what to emphasize. They are themselves arguments, and their paraphrasing of Shakespeare erase some possible meanings while privileging others. The skills I will teach you in this course should equip you to make your own interpretations about the text. You may use summaries as a *supplement* if you are struggling, but **I fully expect you to read every play in its entirety in the original language.** If you do quote from, get an idea from, or even read an online summary, that source must appear in a “Works Consulted” list on any subsequent assignment. Be aware, though, that these summaries are often not written for college-level courses. Your ideas will often be more complex and interesting than what you will find online.

Decorum: Please turn off all electronics (cell phones, computers, tablets, etc.) at the beginning of class. Any unauthorized use of electronics during class time will result in an automatic absence for the day. If you are habitually using or looking at an electronic device in class, I reserve the right to dismiss you.

Please refrain from chatting with your neighbors during class. Such behavior is distracting and disruptive to your classmates and to me

Accommodations: Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students will documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, you must meet with me by Friday of Week 1.

Note: The works we will read deal with adult themes and subjects. Shakespeare’s plays can be violent and sexual, sometimes simultaneously. You are not required to like everything you read, but you are required to engage with these works intellectually and respectfully.

Schedule

Unless otherwise marked, the readings are due the dates they are listed.

Week 1

Monday: Course Overview, Shakespeare’s England, Reading Shakespeare

Wednesday: “Shakespeare’s Life and Art,” 42-51, *Measure for Measure* 1.1 (in class)

Friday: *Measure for Measure*: Introduction (305-313), Act 1

Week 2

M: *Measure for Measure* Act 2

W: *Measure for Measure* Act 3

F: *Measure for Measure*, Act 4

Week 3

M: *Measure for Measure*, Act 5

W: *Measure for Measure*, review discussion

F: *Othello*: Introduction (375-384), Act 1

Paraphrase Assignment Due

Week 4

M: *Othello* Act 2

W: *Othello* Act 3

F: *Othello* Act 4

Week 5

M: *Othello* Act 5

W: *Othello* Review Discussion

Close Reading Due

F: *The History of King Lear*: Introduction & Textual Note (591-601), Scenes 1-5*

*Note: You will *not* be reading *The Tragedy of King Lear* or *King Lear* (Conflated Text). The text you will be reading runs on the even pages from pp. 602-756.

Week 6

M: *The History of King Lear* Scenes 6-7

W: *The History of King Lear* Scenes 8-14

F: *The History of King Lear* Scenes 15-21

Week 7

M: *The History of King Lear* Scenes 22-end

W: *The History of King Lear* Review Discussion

F: Discussion: Short Essay Assignment, Literary Analysis

Week 8

M: *The Tempest*: Introduction (1321-1329), Act 1

W: *The Tempest* Act 2

F: *The Tempest* Act 3

Week 9

M: **Memorial Day, No class**

W: *The Tempest* Act 4

F: *The Tempest* Act 5

Week 10

M: *The Tempest* Review Discussion

W: Discussion: Villains

F: **Short Essay Assignment Due**