

SHAKESPEARE

PROF. BOVILSKY

Description

Students in ENG 208 read and discuss Shakespeare's later work. The course introduces students to central questions in and approaches to the study of literature in English. Specific topics for discussion may include Shakespeare's work with the constraints of genre; his dramaturgy; his representations of consciousness, emotion, history, familial and political conflict, masculinity and femininity, desire, ethics, power, and authorship itself; his dialogues with other texts and writers; and the language he uses to stage his ideas. Students will leave the course having read extensively from the works of one of the major writers of the western tradition, and they will have acquired interpretive, analytical, and communication skills. ENG 208 satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. There will be weekly readings, in addition to which students will be asked to perform two close reading exercises and a critical essay (see "assignments" below). There is a final exam.

The course meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2-2:50 in room 307 of the Volcanology Building.

Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:

Office: PLC 246

Email: bovilsky@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Th 11:00-1:00, F 12-1, or by appointment

Required Text

Norton Shakespeare (available in the Duckstore)

Any other readings will be available on e-reserves or in handouts.

Syllabus

Sept. 30: Introduction

Oct 2-Oct. 14: *Macbeth*

• Oct. 11: Close reading ex due

Oct. 16-Oct. 28: *Measure for Measure*

Oct. 30-Nov. 11: *The Tempest*

• Nov. 3: Close reading ex due

Nov. 13: Q & A day

****Nov. 15, 9 a.m. Performance by Oregon Shakespeare Festival Actors****
- *Attendance plus a 1-page response confers extra credit*

Nov. 15, normal class time: workshop with OSF actors, **meet in Gerlinger Lounge**

Nov. 18-Dec. 4: *King Lear*

• Nov. 18: final paper prospectus due

Nov. 29: Thanksgiving break: No class

Dec. 6: In-class final exam

• Dec. 2: final paper due

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation in discussion is strongly encouraged.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory; more than three unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered as follows. Four unexcused absences will lower your grade two-thirds of a full letter grade (A- becomes B); five will lower your grade one full letter grade (A- becomes B-). Six or more unexcused absences will mean a failing grade.

Assignments

Two close reading exercises (2-4 pp); one paper (6-7 pp); final exam.

Assignments must be typed in 12-point font, be double spaced, and have reasonable margins (1 inch is generally standard; greater than 1.25 inch will not be accepted). You may work from MLA or Chicago format: just be consistent.

Please proofread and revise your written work. Extensive sloppiness and mechanical errors will result in a lower grade.

Late assignments **lose 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. Stay in touch.

No incompletes will be granted except in case of documented emergency.

GRADES

A final grade of **C or better** in the course is required for English major credit. Final grades are based on papers and exams.

Final grades are assessed according to the following base rubric (**but see below**):

35% Close Reading assignments (2-4 pp, due Oct. 11 and Nov. 3)

40% Final Paper (6-7 pp, due Dec. 2 – prospectus due Nov. 18)

25% Final Exam (In-class, Dec. 6)

I may choose to alter the above proportions to respond to your individual situation. For instance, I may skew percentages to reward improvement over the course of the term. You can also raise your grade through class participation – contributing usefully to class discussion and to dialogue with your peers, asking questions, paying attention. This term, we have the enormous good fortune of a visit from actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. They will be giving a performance at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 15. Tickets are free and must be requested in advance as discussed in class. Attendance at the performance will yield a small amount of extra credit in the course; there will also be an extra credit exercise associated with the workshop.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course or at this university. All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. This includes ideas you get from your classmates (discussion and kicking ideas around is encouraged, so long as you document where discussion with a peer impacted your argument) and ideas you get from websites as well as books and other media. See the library website (under “guides”) for citation practices. You are not allowed to cut and paste from internet sites into your paper.

N.B. Most internet content on Shakespeare aimed at students is not written at the college level. Taking from this work, even in the case that you are not caught, will often result in a lower grade.

Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade for this course. Definitions of cheating and plagiarism are available in the “Student Conduct Code” section of the Student Life website (<http://studentlife.uoregon.edu>); please familiarize yourself with these if you are not clear on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism. You are also welcome to contact me if you have any questions about these definitions. I am very happy to talk to you about this!

If you are having trouble writing a paper or understanding what I am looking for, please contact me. I do not expect that you already know how to do what I am teaching you. Extra help is always available. There’s nothing wrong with getting something wrong – often the best way to learn is to make mistakes, and this is not something to panic about. However, if you take ideas from elsewhere and pass them off as your own, you learn nothing – so the next paper will therefore be no easier – and risk extreme academic penalties.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, you must meet with me by Friday, October 11. You must also consult with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.