

ENG 208: Shakespeare (CRN 13005)
Fall 2013 – Monday/Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:20 am
360 Condon

Your ongoing enrollment in this course indicates that you have read this syllabus and accept its requirements and expectations.

Instructor

Katie Myers
 kmyers@uoregon.edu
 Office location: 21 PLC
 Office phone number: 541-346-3268
 Office Hours: Fridays, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Course Overview

Focusing on four of Shakespeare’s later plays, this course provides an introduction to the language, conventions, and implications of Shakespeare’s work. While Shakespeare’s work is clearly situated in an early modern context, it also transgresses many norms of his culture and some of ours. We will develop and deploy close reading skills in order to discuss issues of transgression through elements of genre, poetry, and language; representations of gender, class, and interiority; and conceptions of politics, theology, and philosophy. You need not have prior familiarity with Shakespeare or Renaissance literature to succeed in this class.

Required Texts

I have ordered inexpensive editions of each of the following plays. Please purchase these specific texts, even if you already own one or more of the plays in a different version. Note that having access to more than one edition will help you with close reading assignments.

- Hamlet*. Ed. Hibbard. Oxford World Classics, 2008.
- King Lear*. Ed. Wells. Oxford World Classics, 2008.
- Twelfth Night*. Eds. Warren and Wells. Oxford World Classics, 2008.
- The Winter’s Tale*. Ed. Orgel. Oxford World Classics, 2008.

Supplementary readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Grading

| Assignments | Grading Scale | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----|-------|----|-------|---|-------|---|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|---|-------|---|-------|----|-------|----|-------|--|--|---|------|
| Glossing Assignment | 20% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Close Reading Assignment | 25% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Short Essay | 35% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contributions | 20% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">A+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">C+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">77-79</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">94-99</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">74-76</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">A-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">90-93</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">C-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">70-73</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">B+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">87-89</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">D+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">67-69</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">B</td> <td style="text-align: center;">84-86</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">64-66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">B-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">80-83</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">D-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">60-63</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;"></td> <td></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-59</td> </tr> </table> | A+ | 100 | C+ | 77-79 | A | 94-99 | C | 74-76 | A- | 90-93 | C- | 70-73 | B+ | 87-89 | D+ | 67-69 | B | 84-86 | D | 64-66 | B- | 80-83 | D- | 60-63 | | | F | 0-59 |
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Course Work

Contributions

This class emphasizes the communication of ideas both in writing and in discussion, so your active participation in 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. **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.

Glossing, Close Reading, and Short Essay Assignments

Directions for these assignments will be included in separate handouts. **Be sure you have the Glossing Assignment Directions prior to leaving class on the first day.**

Extra Credit Option

For extra credit, you may choose to memorize a passage from one of the plays we are reading in this class. The passage must be 25 lines long, and you must sign up for a recitation appointment in advance.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival will be visiting campus this term, courtesy of the Weatherhead Undergraduate Shakespeare Studies Program. The OSF actors will perform an abridged version of *The Tempest* and offer workshops for students. This is a wonderful opportunity for you witness a Shakespearean production. I encourage you to attend. Tickets will be limited.

Formatting Written Work

All written work should be typed and double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font and 1" margins. Include the following information on the first page of every document: your name, ENG 208, my name (Kate Myers), assignment name, word count, date due, your original title for the assignment. Insert your last name and page numbers on subsequent pages of each document. Use MLA format for quoting and citing sources. **Failure to format and/or cite sources may significantly lower the assignment grade.**

Submitting Written Work

All assignments will be submitted electronically through SafeAssign on our Blackboard course website. Post files in “.doc” or “.docx” format.

Course Policies

Contact: Email and Office Hours

Please ask questions or seek my advice after class, during office hours, or through email. Part of my job is to assist students, but I cannot anticipate all of your concerns. Please approach me with individual questions.

Access

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course (this means you may not turn in a paper you wrote for another class, even if you've read the plays before). The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult the Code of Student Conduct on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website: <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx>. In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course is standard practice. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Most academic dishonesty cases happen when students panic at the last minute. If you ask at least 24 hours in advance of a deadline, I will usually grant you an extension, so please don't resort to cheating.

A note on using online summaries, paraphrases, and other sources: I hope to see your own grappling for meaning with these texts in your writing and contributions for this course. 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 paraphrasings of Shakespeare erase some possible meanings while privileging others. Online summaries are also not written for college-level courses, and thus they are only a good *supplement* if you are struggling. **I fully expect you to read every play in its entirety in the original language.** Relying on someone else's work in any capacity on an assignment constitutes Academic Dishonesty and be treated as such. 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.

Incompletes

No grades of "Incomplete" will be assigned for this course.

Late Work

All assigned work is due according to the assignment schedule and directions. You may turn in work early. Late work will drop a full letter grade for each calendar day it is late.

Attendance

Attendance is required. You may miss the equivalent of one week of class meetings for any reason – I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Additional absences will each lower your final course grade by ½ of 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.**

Arriving late twice counts as one absence. If you arrive late, you are responsible for approaching me at the end of class to ensure that you are marked tardy rather than absent.

You are responsible for anything you miss if you are not in class. Consult your classmates for class notes and missed assignments.

Decorum

Please turn off all electronic gadgets, including cell phones, ipods, tablets, and computing devices. Any unauthorized use of electronics during class time will result in an automatic absence for the day.

Please refrain from chatting with your neighbors during class.

Computer Problems

Computer difficulties are not an excuse for failure to produce your assigned work in this class. Back up your files. There are computer labs all over campus; make use of them if you experience difficulties with your computer or internet access.

Advisory

You should be aware that **Shakespeare deals with adult themes and subjects**. His work can be **violent** and **sexual**, sometimes simultaneously. His work challenges conventional conceptions of **political** and **religious** issues. We will discuss these subjects specifically in class. Please be prepared for thoughtful engagement with the texts and with your classmates on a spectrum of provocative (perhaps uncomfortable) topics. I do not expect you to like (or agree with) everything you read, but I do expect gracious and responsible treatment of your classmates and of these intellectually challenging texts.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments (subject to change)

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Week 1 | Mon 09/30 | Introductions |
| | Wed 10/02 | <i>Twelfth Night</i> (Act 1) |
| Week 2 | Mon 10/07 | <i>Twelfth Night</i> (Act 2) |
| | Wed 10/09 | <i>Twelfth Night</i> (Act 3) |
| Week 3 | Mon 10/14 | <i>Twelfth Night</i> (Act 4) |
| | Wed 10/16 | <i>Twelfth Night</i> (Act 5) |
| | Fri 10/18 | Due on Blackboard by 5pm: <i>Twelfth Night</i> Glossing Assignment |
| Week 4 | Mon 10/21 | <i>Hamlet</i> (Act 1) |
| | Wed 10/23 | <i>Hamlet</i> (Act 2) |
| Week 5 | Mon 10/28 | <i>Hamlet</i> (Act 3) |
| | Wed 10/30 | <i>Hamlet</i> (Act 4) |
| | Fri 11/01 | Due on Blackboard by 5pm: <i>Hamlet</i> Close Reading Assignment |
| Week 6 | Mon 11/04 | <i>Hamlet</i> (Act 5) |
| | Wed 11/06 | <i>Lear</i> (Act 1) |
| Week 7 | Mon 11/11 | <i>Lear</i> (Act 2) |
| | Wed 11/13 | <i>Lear</i> (Act 3) |
| | Fri 11/15 | Oregon Shakespeare Festival Performance of <i>The Tempest</i> details to follow |
| Week 8 | Mon 11/18 | <i>Lear</i> (Act 4) |
| | Wed 11/20 | <i>Lear</i> (Act 5) |
| Week 9 | Mon 11/25 | <i>Winter's Tale</i> (Act 1) |
| | Wed 11/27 | <i>Winter's Tale</i> (Act 2) |
| | Sun 12/01 | Due on Blackboard by 5pm: Short Essay proposal |
| Week 10 | Mon 12/02 | <i>Winter's Tale</i> (Acts 3-4) |
| | Wed 12/04 | <i>Winter's Tale</i> (Act 5) |
| | Fri 12/06 | Last Day for Optional Memorized Recitation for Extra Credit – <i>By appointment only</i> |
| Finals Week | Wed 12/11 | Due on Blackboard by 5pm: Short Essay on <i>Lear</i> or <i>Winter's Tale</i> |