

ENGLISH 208 (16874)
LATER SHAKESPEARE
FALL, 2014
WARREN GINSBERG

Office: PLC 257; 6-3958
Hours: MWF 1.00-2.00
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We will read four later plays: Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth, and The Tempest. Our primary focus will be to interpret Shakespeare's language; we will pay close attention to the ways in which diction, syntax, historical, religious, and cultural contexts affect our reading of each text. We will also examine quartos and the first folio to see how the text came to be what we read in our editions, and we will discuss how performance changes our experience of the plays.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Sep	29:	Introduction	
Oct	1:	Hamlet, Act 1	
	3:	Hamlet, Act 1-2	
Oct	6:	Hamlet, Act 2-3	
	8:	Hamlet, Act 3	PAPER DUE
	10:	Hamlet, Act 4	
Oct	13:	Hamlet, Act 4-5	
	15:	Hamlet, Act 5	
	17:	Hamlet, Act 5	
Oct	20:	Macbeth, Act 1	
	22:	Macbeth, Act 1-2	
	24:	Macbeth, Act 2-3	
	27:	Macbeth, Act 3-4	
	29:	Macbeth, Act 4-5	
	31:	Macbeth, Act 5	
Nov	3	MIDTERM	
	5	Movie: Macbeth	
	7	Movie: Macbeth	
	10	King Lear, Act 1	
	12	King Lear, Act 1-2	
	14	King Lear, Act 2-3	

Nov 17 King Lear, Act 3-4
 19 King Lear, Act 4-5
 21 King Lear, Act 5

 24 Tempest, Act 1
 26 Tempest, Act 1-2
 28 Thanksgiving

Dec 1 Tempest, Act 3
 3 Tempest, Act 4
 5 Tempest, Act 5

PAPER DUE

FINAL Wednesday, Dec.10 2:45 PM

Requirements: Midterm (20%), 2 short papers (40%), Final (20%), Quizzes (10%), Class participation (10%). Papers must be handed in on the day they are due; you will lose one **full** grade for each day it is late (An A becomes a B).

Attendance: Attendance will be taken. 2 unexplained absences are allowed; your grade will be lowered one level (i.e. A becomes A-) each time you miss a class without an acceptable explanation (e.g. medical; doctor's note). No make-ups for missed quizzes if you are absent without explanation.

Academic Integrity: If you cheat on any exam or plagiarize (or collaborate) when you write your papers, you will be given an F and immediately expelled from the course. A report will be sent to the appropriate University officials.

Learning Outcomes:

1. to read Shakespeare's plays with discernment and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. to understand cultural and/or historical information that situates the plays in the time they were produced;
3. to perform critical, formal analyses of the texts;
4. to write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. to employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments

First Paper

You are Hamlet; you are about to deliver the most famous lines in English verse. Six words near the beginning of the "To be or not to be" (Act 3, Scene 1) soliloquy, however, are troubling: "to die to sleep no more." Write a 1-2 page paper in which you discuss what this phrase means and how you would say it. You will be judged on how well you formulate and defend your reading; to support your interpretation you will need, at the very least, to consider these words in relation to the entire speech they are part of. I have deliberately presented the phrase without punctuation;

since one aspect of this assignment is to punctuate them, you might want to refer to the quartos and first folio (the links are on Blackboard) to see how they appear there.

Links:

For first folio: http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/digitalcuration/etext_shakespeare.html

For quartos: go to the link for Shakespeare Quartos in British Library. Click first on Shakespeare's Works, then the link for the quartos. <http://www.wfu.edu/~tedforrl/shakespeare/>

For King Lear. Use the link to the tutorial on King Lear:
<http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/sceti/furness/eric/teach/index.cfm>

Links to many sources on Renaissance literature:
<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/ren.html?AX47072>