

Winter 2014  
101 Allen  
MWF 2-2.50  
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Hours: M 3-5  
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### **ENG 208: Shakespeare's Extremities**

**Description** This course, which focuses upon four of the later plays of Shakespeare's career, is designed as an introduction to the language, themes, contexts, and implications of Shakespeare's most mature work. Though our close reading of these plays will lead us to consider any number of the many topics which are developed throughout Shakespeare's work, I have chosen these four plays with special attention to their depictions and "stagings" of psychic, cultural, and social extremities. You need not have taken ENG 207 to appreciate this course: no prior familiarity with Shakespeare or Renaissance literature is required or expected.

**Texts** I have ordered paperback editions of each of the plays. Please purchase these inexpensive editions from the bookstore, even if you already own one or more of the plays in a different version. The plays are *Othello*, *King Lear*; *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*.

**Policies** Attendance is mandatory. To be counted present, you must arrive on time and remain throughout the period. You are expected to arrive prepared, with your copy of the assigned text. Regardless of the reason, your course grade will be reduced, without warning, by **one full letter grade** after **five** absences. In-class assignments, quizzes, or exams missed due to absence **cannot** be made up. Late papers or assignments will be reduced by **one full letter grade**. There are no incompletes in this course; and there is no final comprehensive exam. **Please turn off all electronic gadgets, including cell phones, ipods, texting, and computing devices. Please refrain from chatting with your neighbors during class. No Tinder. No selfing.**

**Grading** 4 exams, 15% each/ 3 writing assignments, 10% each/ unannounced quizzes and class participation, 10%

**Academic Dishonesty** To use anyone else's actual or paraphrased words without appropriate citation is to commit plagiarism. **If I have discovered that you have committed plagiarism, I will follow to the letter the protocol stipulated by the Student Conduct Code.** There are no exceptions to this rule. In certain cases, academic dishonesty may also result in suspension or dismissal from the university. If you are ever uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, consult the Student Conduct Code reprinted in the Schedule of Classes or consult me.

**Advisory** You should be aware that in focusing on the topic of "Shakespeare's Extremities," this course addresses some provocative issues in these powerful dramas. Shakespeare's work can be violent and sexual, sometimes simultaneously.

## **ENG 208: Shakespeare's Extremities Syllabus**

Mon 6 Jan: Introductions

Wed 8 Jan: *Othello*, introduction by Russ McDonald and Act 1

Fri 10 Jan: *Othello*, Act 2 (guest lecture Prof. Lara Bovilsky)

Mon 13 Jan: *Othello*, Act 3

Wed 15 Jan: *Othello*, Act 4

Fri 17 Jan: *Othello*, Act 5

Mon 20 Jan: **Martin Luther King Memorial Day**

Wed 22 Jan: *Othello*, review discussion      **Written Assignment #1 due**

Fri 24 Jan: ***Othello Exam***

Mon 27 Jan: *King Lear* (1608 quarto text), introduction by Stephen Orgel and Act 1

Wed 28 Jan: *King Lear*, Act 2

Fri 30 Jan: *King Lear*, Act 3

Mon 3 Feb: *King Lear*, Act 4

Wed 5 Feb: *King Lear*, Act 5

Fri 7 Feb: *King Lear*, review discussion      **Written Assignment #2 due**

Mon 10 Feb: ***King Lear Exam***

Wed 12 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, introduction by Frances Dolan and Act 1

Fri 14 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 2

Mon 17 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 3

Wed 19 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 4

Fri 21 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 5

Mon 24 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, review discussion      **Written Assignment #3 due**

Wed 26 Feb: ***The Winter's Tale Exam***

Fri 28 Feb: *The Tempest*, introduction by Stephen Orgel and Act 1

Mon 3 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 2

Wed 5 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 3

Fri 7 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 4

Mon 10 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 5      **Written Assignment #4 due  
(optional)**

Wed 12 Mar: *The Tempest*, review discussion

Fri 14 Mar: ***The Tempest Exam***

