

Winter 2016  
101 Allen  
MWF 1-1.50  
phone 63928

Prof. Forest Pyle  
Office: PLC 270  
Hours: M 2-4 W 2-3  
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### **ENG 208: Shakespeare's Extremities**

**Description** This course, which focuses on 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.**

**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 4 Jan: **Introduction to Shakespeare at Oregon**

Wed 6 Jan: Shakespeare's First Folio: Jordan Schnitzer Museum Tour with Professor Lara Bovilsky

Fri 8 Jan: No Class

Sat 9 Jan: Special Performance: Oregon Shakespeare Festival performs *King Lear*, Act I (Noon Hult Center for the Performing Arts, free student performance)

Mon 11 Jan: *Othello*, introduction by Russ McDonald and Act 1

Wed 13 Jan: *Othello*, Act 2

Fri 15 Jan: *Othello*, Act 3

Mon 18 Jan: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (no class)**

Wed 20 Jan: *Othello*, Act 4

Fri 22 Jan: *Othello*, Act 5      **Written Assignment #1 due**

Mon 25 Jan: ***Othello* Exam**

Wed 27 Jan: *King Lear* (introduction by Stephen Orgel and Act 1)

Fri 29 Jan: *King Lear*, Act 2

Mon 1 Feb: *King Lear*, Act 3

Wed 3 Feb: *King Lear*, Act 4

Fri 5 Feb: *King Lear*, Act 5

Mon 8 Feb: *King Lear*, review discussion      **Written Assignment #2 due**

Wed 10 Feb: ***King Lear* Exam**

Fri 12 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 1

Mon 15 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 2

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

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

Mon 22 Feb: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 5

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

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

Mon 29 Feb: *The Tempest*, introduction by Stephen Orgel and Act 1

Wed 2 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 2

Fri 4 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 3

Mon 7 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 4

Wed 9 Mar: *The Tempest*, Act 5

Fri 11 Mar: ***The Tempest* Exam      Written Assignment #4 due (optional)**