Syllabus

Be not afearèd: the isle is full of noises, Sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not.

Course Description: This introductory course will cover four of Shakespeare’s earlier plays – two comedies and two tragedies. After orienting ourselves to Shakespeare’s life, language, and culture, our primary focus will be on close reading and analysis of the plays, paying careful attention to the details of language and textual evidence that support our various interpretations. We will consider the limits and possibilities of the comic and tragic genres and reflect on the role of performance in interpreting and understanding the art of drama.

Texts: Folger editions are required for this class.
Twelfth Night
The Merchant of Venice
Julius Caesar
Hamlet

Grading and Requirements:

APP 10%
Quizzes 10%
Midterm 10%
Oral Interpretation 10%
3 Essays 60% (20% each)

Policies and Procedures:
I am happy to meet with you during the term to discuss your ideas, concerns, questions, progress, or grades. Please come to my office hours or make an appointment if you can’t make the office hours for this discussion. Meaningful discussions on the fly before or after class are not possible.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is taking someone else’s ideas or writings and presenting them as your own. All work you do in this class must be exclusively your own work, based on your own original thinking, and done exclusively for this class. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in your failing the class and a report being sent to the Office of Student Conduct. See me if you do not understand what plagiarism means and please read the provisions in the code of student conduct regarding this: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/code.htm>

AP&P: This portion of your grade assumes your rigorous intellectual engagement. It includes being present and on time for each class, having your Folger paperback with you and using it during discussion, being prepared for each class by having read the assigned work, volunteering to share your ideas during discussion, and responding to the ideas of others thoughtfully and respectfully. This grade also includes single-minded focus on the work of the class, which requires you to turn off and put away all electronics – ipods, computers, cell phones, etc. – before class begins and refrain from leaving the room while class is in session to text or check for text messages. If you have a documented disability that requires use of electronic devices, please see me during my office hours to discuss.

Quizzes: You have to read Shakespeare’s plays attentively for fullest understanding. To encourage you in this practice of close and careful reading, there will be one or more quiz or response paper per play. These
may ask you to summarize actions, explain characters, remember details, analyze meanings, etc. Quizzes noted on the schedule will cover the first act of each new play and may also include anything from readings, discussions, or lectures since the previous quiz. Missed quizzes may not be made up unless you miss it due to necessary university business or true emergencies, both of which must be documented.

**Midterm:** The Midterm will cover the plays read up to that point as well as any lecture material presented in class.

**Essays:** The ability to think critically and express your critical thinking in compelling written form is an essential component of this class. Each essay will begin with an in-class writing in response to a question-at-issue followed by a second draft and more as needed to develop your ideas and perfect your written reasoning. Your third and/or final draft will be graded with the other drafts attached to it.

**Writing Associates:** We are fortunate to have a Writing Associates attached to our class – Ruby Arbogast. Her job is to assist you with your writing by meeting with you and discussing your ideas and concerns. Please take advantage of her help throughout the term, but don’t wait until the last minute to make an appointment and please don’t email your paper to Ruby and expect her to “fix” it for you. That is your job. She is available to assist you in your writing process. Specific guidelines for each writing assignment will be discussed during the term.

**Tentative Schedule:**

1a Shakespeare’s English
1b Shakespeare’s life and times
1c Shakespeare’s life and times
2a Twelfth Night, Act 1; quiz
2b Twelfth Night, Act 2
2c Twelfth Night, cont’d
3a Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – no class session
3b Twelfth Night, Acts 3 and 4
3c Twelfth Night, Act 5, scholar’s commentary; in-class rough draft
4a Merchant of Venice, Act 1; quiz
4b MV, Act 2; Essay #1 due with drafts attached
4c MV, Act 3
5a MV, Acts 4 and 5, scholar’s commentary
5b **Midterm Exam**
5c Julius Caesar, Act 1
6a JC, Acts 2 and 3; quiz
6b JC, Act 4 and 5; scholar’s commentary
6c JC, continued; discussion of Scholarship Review
7a Hamlet, Act 1; quiz
7b Hamlet, Act 2
7c Hamlet, continued
8a Hamlet, Act 3; Scholarship Review due with drafts attached
8b Hamlet, continued
8c Hamlet, continued
9a Hamlet, Act 4
9b Hamlet, Act 5
9c Hamlet, scholar’s commentary; in-class rough draft
10a Oral Interpretations of Hamlet
10b Oral Interpretations of Hamlet
10c Oral Interpretations of Hamlet
11a **Hamlet Essay (#2) due by noon in my office with rough drafts attached** – 265 PLC