Course Description: The selection of texts for this course will engage you with some Shakespeare’s most sympathetic representations of human relationships, along with some of his most violent, unkind, and incomprehensible. In our readings of *The Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice, Titus Andronicus, Twelfth Night*, and *Hamlet*, we will cover a range of Shakespeare’s most beloved and most problematic plays. Over the course of the term, students will enhance their reading proficiency, strengthen close reading skills, and—most importantly—develop their own sense of Shakespeare’s plays. I have also chosen these particular texts in part because of the interesting film versions available, and we will focus considerably on performance interpretation. Topics of discussion will include theatricality, education, constructions of female agency and misogyny, masculinity and male relationships, cross-dressing, representations of religion and race, genre constraints, and more.

Required Texts:
- *Hamlet* (The Pelican edition will be available at the Duckstore later in the term, but it is also okay with me if you decide to use a different edition)

NEW Grade Breakdown:

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<tr>
<td>Film Attendance and Write-ups (2)</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes*, class work, participation</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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*Some quizzes will be announced and some will not. Expect quizzes regularly.

NEW: Extra credit** (3% Total available—that’s a full grade):

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeing <em>Taming</em> and write-up</td>
<td>¾%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Performance and write-up</td>
<td>¾%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchant screening</td>
<td>½%</td>
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<td>Extra film screening after midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra film screening after midterm</td>
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**NOTE on extra credit—follow these instructions precisely:** I will post extra credit assignments on BB or announce them in class, but I will not take on extra work to help you get extra credit. To get extra credit for bonus film screenings (remember: you still need to attend one more screening after the midterm for regular credit), you need to attend in person. Please check BB for film locations if you can’t remember where they are (I will post them as soon as I know). If you cannot attend in person, you will need to (1) Get the check list for extra credit film screening on BB, (2) email me to let me know you are watching on your own, (3) check movies out from reserves and watch them in the library, (4) fill out any worksheets (if applicable), and (5) come to my office hours in person to tell me about your thoughts on the movie. Extra credit means you went above and beyond, and I will only award it to students who take the initiative to find a way to make these opportunities work for their own schedules in a timely and responsible manner. You need to follow directions precisely, and I will not make exceptions or special accommodations.
Policies

Attendance: You may miss up to one week (3 class sessions) without penalty. Any absence beyond that will reduce your grade 1/3 of a letter (i.e., an A- would become a B+). If you are absent, you will need to get assignments to me before the beginning of class, otherwise they are late (see policy on emailing papers for details about how to turn in your work if you are absent). Bring your text with you to class.

Film Screenings: I will screen at least three plays outside of class meeting times. You must attend two film screenings over the course of the term: 10 Things I Hate About You (in Week Two) and one other after the midterm. You will earn a small amount of extra credit for attending more than two screenings.

Participation (in-class and on Blackboard): I expect everyone to contribute to class discussions. Strong participation throughout the term will be a factor in rounding your grade up if your grade is on the verge (and likewise, lack of participation would keep your grade from being rounded up). Online participation counts, too. I will open a discussion page on BB for every play, and I will check it regularly, post questions, and respond to posts. You can fulfill your participation requirement by posting discussion questions, thoughts, links, or anything else you want to our Blackboard page; I may assign specific BB participation throughout the term, too.

Essays: You will write two polished 5-page papers for this course, in addition to shorter writing assignments. You will write one paper that is a Close Reading and Analysis paper; this paper will focus on one element of a play in order to make a larger argument about the play. The other paper will be either a film analysis paper or a paper comparing one aspect of two plays in order to make a larger argument about why such a comparison is helpful. You may select which paper you want to do first, and I will provide prompts for both options each time (you will need to respond to specific prompts for all assignments).

A note on using online summaries, paraphrases, and other sources: A lot has been written on Shakespeare in the past 400 years. It is easy to pull up hundreds of analyses of Shakespeare with the click of a button, and unfortunately, once we read what someone else has said about a play, it becomes very difficult to have our own interpretations. What I hope to see in your writing for this course is your own individual struggle with understanding and finding meaning in Shakespeare, even if you feel your take may not be correct (usually there is no single “correct” interpretation). Online summaries are interpretations; the choices other people make about what to include and what to emphasize are themselves arguments, and paraphrases of Shakespeare erase some possible meanings while solidifying others. You may choose to look at summaries to supplement your ability to understand what is happening in a play, and that is fine. But remember that online summaries are generally not written for college-level courses, and they are only a good supplement if you are struggling; the only way you will become more fluent in reading Shakespeare is by practicing. If you do look at any online source as you work on any paper, even if you do not quote from it, you should include that source in a “Works Consulted” list at the end of your paper. Failure to cite any source
that may have influenced your reading of the play (including, but not limited to, summaries, paraphrases, and articles) may be treated as Academic Dishonesty and penalized accordingly. *If you want to read good interpretations of the plays to help you with your own work, please rely on the introductions to the plays in the Norton book, and feel free to quote and cite them in your essays; these introductions are written by prominent Shakespeare scholars and may help you generate strong ideas.*

**Academic Honesty:** All work submitted for 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 (for ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) must be properly documented. In cases where Academic Dishonesty is established, you will receive an F for the final course grade, and I will submit paperwork to ensure that any future conduct issues go onto your permanent record. **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; I will usually be happy to grant you an extension, so please don’t resort to cheating.

**Late Work:** If you need extra time on an assignment, you should arrange that with me in advance. If you have an arranged extension, you will not lose points, although I am unlikely to offer extensions on multiple assignments. Otherwise, any work that is not turned by the time I ask for it in class is late, even if you are absent. I will reduce your score by one full letter grade (10%) per day it is late.

**Emailing me your work (only in extenuating circumstances):** If for any reason you cannot turn a hard copy of your work in when it is due at the beginning of class (due to printer problems or unexpected absence, for instance), you can only get full credit by emailing me your work before class so that I can verify that you have done it on time. This should not be a habit for any student, and you will still need to bring me a hard copy of your work as soon as you can. I will only grade work that I receive as a hard copy, and I will not print out your work or remind you to bring the hard copy—that is your responsibility. If you are emailing me work in order to let me know that it is done on time, **you must attach your document in a Word file AND paste the document into the email.** If I am unable to open your attachment and you have not pasted your work into the body of the email, I will still consider it late.

**Formatting:** All papers should be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. Your name, the course name, my name, the date, and the assignment title must be in the top left-hand corner of the front page, and pages must be numbered. Title your essay (ideally in an entertaining fashion) and always use MLA format for citations.

**Incompletes:** Approval for incompletes will be granted only in cases when students through unforeseen circumstances beyond their control cannot complete some minor but essential aspect of the course.

**Access for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability (physical or learning) that you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first
week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to all classroom activities.

**Week One:**
- **Mon, Mar. 28**<sup>th</sup> Welcome to Shakespeare
- **Wed, Mar. 30**<sup>th</sup> *Taming of the Shrew*, Inductions, Act I
  - “The Shakespearian Stage” (Norton 79-99—focus on p. 79-84, skim the rest)
- **Fri, Apr. 1**<sup>st</sup> *Taming*, Act II
  - “The Legal Status of Women” and “Women and Print” (Norton 9-13)

**Week Two:**
- **Mon, Apr. 4**<sup>th</sup> *Taming* Act III-IV
- **Wed, Apr. 6**<sup>th</sup> *Taming*, Act V
  - *Thurs:* [10 Things I Hate About You Film Screening (Time TBA)—attendance required]
- **Fri, Apr. 8**<sup>th</sup> Final Discussion of *Taming* and *10 Things I Hate About You*

**Revised Schedule of Assignments (Refer to this schedule ONLY now!):**

**Week Three:**
- **Mon, Apr. 11**<sup>th</sup> *Merchant of Venice*, Act I
  - **Quiz**—on *Merchant* only
  - (Monday: 5:00pm-7:30pm—Extra Credit screening of *Merchant of Venice* in Humanities 110)
- **Wed, Apr. 13**<sup>th</sup> *Merchant*, Act II-III
- **Fri, Apr. 15**<sup>th</sup> Class canceled

  *The Midterm Review guide and Essay #1 Prompts will be available on BB by Sunday night.*

**Week Four:**
- **Mon, Apr. 18**<sup>th</sup> *Merchant*, Act IV-V
  - **Quiz**
- **Wed, Apr. 20**<sup>th</sup> Final discussion of *Merchant*, Midterm preparation
- **Fri, Apr. 22**<sup>nd</sup> Midterm Examination
  - (Deadline to let me know if you plan to do an extra credit in-class performance on 4/25)

**Week Five:**
- **Mon, Apr. 25**<sup>th</sup> Shakespeare’s birthday! (Extra credit: in-class performances!)
  - **Due: Essay 1** (deadline may be extended if you are performing this day)
  - (Final Deadline for extra credit for *Taming* at LCC)
- **Wed, Apr. 27**<sup>th</sup> *Titus Andronicus*, Act I
  - (Thursday: 6:00-8:45: Screening of *Titus*—Location TBA)
- **Fri, Apr. 29**<sup>th</sup> *Titus*, Act II

**Week Six:**
- **Mon, May 2**<sup>nd</sup> *Titus*, Act III
(In-class Performance Extra Credit write-up due)

Wed, May 4th  
*Titus*, Act IV-V  
**Quiz**

Fri, May 6th  
Final Discussion of *Titus*

**Week Seven:**  
Mon, May 9th  
*Twelfth Night*, Act I  
(Monday 7:00 pm-9:15pm: *Twelfth Night* Film Screening—Location TBA)

Wed, May 11th  
*Twelfth Night*, Act II

Fri, May 13th  
*Twelfth Night*, Act III

**Week Eight:**  
Mon, May 16th  
*Twelfth Night*, IV  
**Quiz**

Weds, May 18th  
*Twelfth Night*, V

Fri, May 20th  
Final discussion of *Twelfth Night*

**Week Nine:**  
Mon, May 23rd  
*Hamlet*, Act I-II  
**Quiz**

Wed, May 25th  
*Hamlet*, Act III  
(Wednesday 6:00-8:15: *Hamlet* film screening, location TBA)

Fri, May 27th  
*Hamlet*, Act IV

**Week Ten:**  
Mon, May 30th  
Class canceled for Memorial Day Holiday

Wed, June 1st  
*Hamlet*, V  
Final Discussion of *Hamlet*

Fri, June 3rd  
In class: Final Exam Preparation  
**Due: Essay #2** (I may be able to accept this as earlier—talk to me)

**Finals Week:**  
**Mon or Tues:**  *Optional Final Review Session, location TBA*

Weds, June 8th  
**Final exam at 3:15pm**