In this course we will study four plays from the latter part of the career of William Shakespeare: *Twelfth Night*, a comedy; *Hamlet*, a tragedy; and *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*, two late tragicomic romance plays. We will consider the plays in terms of their historical context in the Early Modern World as well as how they have continued to remain popular in our own day, four centuries later. The course introduces key terms, critical ideas, and modes of literary analysis as well as consideration of such important cultural and thematic issues as relations of individuals within community; questions of government and justice; modes of identity, gender, and sexuality; the contours of heroism and villainy; and considerations of aesthetic and ethical meaning.


**WORK:** 2 Exams (50%); In-Class Journal (25%); Participation—Scene, Class Discussion, & Paper (25%)

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**WK 1 (3/28): Shakespeare Then & Now—The Early Modern World (1500-1800) to the Modern**

**M:** Introduction: The Books; the Course; 16th and 17th-Century Britain & Shakespeare & his World

**W:** *Twelfth Night*, Act I-II; "The Theatrical World" (pp.ix-xxviii)

**Terms:** Abrams: Periods of English Literature—Elizabethan Age, Jacobean Age; Renaissance; drama; comedy

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**WK 2 (4/4): *Twelfth Night*—Comedy and Transformation**

**M:** *Twelfth Night*, Acts III-IV; "Introduction" (xxix-xlvi)

**W:** *Twelfth Night*, Acts IV-V

**Terms:** setting, character, plot, verse, prose, intrigue, diction, poetic diction, wit-humor-the comic

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**WK 3 (4/11): *Twelfth Night*—Comedy and Transformation; *Hamlet*—Tragedy and Fate**

**M:** *Twelfth Night*, Act V; *Hamlet*, Act I

**W:** *Hamlet*, Acts I-II; "Introduction" (xxix-lvii)

**Terms:** tragedy, blank verse, characterization, figurative language, theme

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**WK 4 (4/18): *Hamlet*—Tragedy and Fate**

**M:** *Hamlet*, Acts II-III

**W:** *Hamlet*, Acts III-V

**Terms:** figures of thought, pantomime and dumb show, soliloquy, aside, personification, hamartia
WK 5 (4/25): *Hamlet*—Tragedy and Fate

**M:** Midterm Exam—use an exam book & a pen with black or dark blue ink

**W:** *Hamlet*, Acts IV-V

**Terms:** round character, irony, dramatic irony, prose, verse

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WK 6 (5/2): *The Winter’s Tale*—Tragicomic Romance and the Mythic Imaginary

**M:** *The Winter’s Tale*, Act I-II & “Introduction”

**W:** *The Winter’s Tale*, Acts II-III

**Terms:** tragicomedy, romance (definition on Blackboard), myth, folklore, setting, prose, verse

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WK 7 (5/9): *The Winter’s Tale*—Tragicomic Romance and the Mythic Imaginary

**M:** *The Winter’s Tale*, Acts III-IV

**W:** *The Winter’s Tale*, Acts IV-V

**Terms:** pastoral, satire, ballad, figurative language

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WK 8 (5/16): *The Tempest*—Tragicomic Romance & the Mythic Imaginary in a World of Conquest

**M:** *The Winter’s Tale*, Acts IV-V

**W:** *The Tempest*, Act I-II; “Introduction” (xxvii-xliv)

**Terms:** setting, tragicomedy, romance, science fiction and fantasy, prose, verse, concrete/abstract

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WK 9 (5/23): *The Tempest*—Tragicomic Romance and the Figuring of Rule in a World of Conquest

**M:** *The Tempest*, Acts II-III

**W:** *The Tempest*, Acts III-IV

**Terms:** masque, euphony and cacophony, prose, verse

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WK 10 (5/30): *The Tempest*—Tragicomic Romance and the Figuring of Rule in a World of Conquest

**M:** *HOLIDAY*

**W:** *The Tempest*, Acts IV-V

****TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE****

**Terms:** three unities, character, figurative language, theme/motif