**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 8 Jan: No Class
Wed 10 Jan: Introduction
Fri 12 Jan: Othello, Act 1 (and introduction by Russ McDonald)

Mon 15 Jan: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (no class)
Wed 17 Jan: Othello, Act 2
Fri 19 Jan: Othello, Act 3

Mon 22 Jan: Othello, Act 4
Wed 24 Jan: Othello, Act 5
Fri 26 Jan: Othello, review discussion  Assignment #1 due

Mon 29 Jan: Othello Exam
Wed 31 Jan: King Lear Act 1 (and introduction by Stephen Orgel)
Fri 2 Feb: King Lear, Act 2

Mon 5 Feb: King Lear, Act 3
Wed 7 Feb: King Lear, Act 4
Fri 9 Feb: King Lear, Act 5

Mon 12 Feb: King Lear, review discussion Assignment #2 due
Wed 14 Feb: King Lear Exam
Fri 16 Feb: The Winter’s Tale, Act 1

Mon 19 Feb: The Winter’s Tale, Act 2
Wed 21 Feb: The Winter’s Tale, Act 3
Fri 23 Feb: The Winter’s Tale, Act 4

Mon 26 Feb: The Winter’s Tale, Act 5
Wed 28 Feb: The Winter’s Tale, review (and introduction by Frances Dolan) Assignment #3 due
Fri 2 Mar: The Winter’s Tale Exam

Mon 5 Mar: The Tempest, Act 1 (and introduction by Stephen Orgel)
Wed 7 Mar: The Tempest, Act 2
Fri 9 Mar: The Tempest, Act 3

Mon 12 Mar: The Tempest, Act 4
Wed 14 Mar: The Tempest, Act 5
Fri 16 Mar: The Tempest Exam