

**SHAKESPEARE****PROF. BOVILSKY****Description**

Students in ENG 208 read and discuss Shakespeare's later work. The course introduces students to central questions in and approaches to the study of literature in English. Specific topics for discussion may include Shakespeare's work with the constraints of genre; his dramaturgy; his representations of consciousness, emotion, history, familial and political conflict, masculinity and femininity, desire, ethics, power, and authorship itself; his dialogues with other texts and writers; and the language he uses to stage his ideas. Students will leave the course having read extensively from the works of one of the most influential writers in history, and they will have acquired interpretive, analytical, and communication skills. ENG 208 satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. There will be weekly readings, in addition to which students will be asked to perform two close reading exercises and a critical essay (see "assignments" below). There is a final exam.

**Learning outcomes**

This course will (1) familiarize you with key questions, themes, and literary and dramatic techniques of Shakespeare's later career. We will (2) learn about Shakespeare's culture to see how his work reflected and engaged some of its beliefs and how drama served him as a medium to do so. Students will (3) also gain an introductory sense of how cultural changes led to shifts in Shakespeare's national and global influence and in understandings of his works. Finally, (4) we will work carefully on learning some basics of literary analysis and expressive writing. Students can expect to leave the class able to explain some of 1-3 above, to start to answer such questions on their own, and to see significant development of some areas in writing and argumentation.

**The course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:20 in room 175 of Lillis Hall.**

**Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:****Office: PLC 246****Email: [bovilsky@uoregon.edu](mailto:bovilsky@uoregon.edu)****Office hours: Tu noon-1:30, W 1-2:30, or by appointment****\*\*Office hours week 1: Tu noon-2, Th. noon-1\*\*****Required Text**

*Norton Shakespeare* (available in the Duckstore)

*Time's Pencil* website: <https://timespencil.omeka.net/home>

Any other readings will be available on e-reserves or in handouts.

## Syllabus

Jan. 10: Introduction

Jan. 12: *Macbeth*, Act 1

Jan. 17: *Macbeth*, Act 2-3.2

• **Jan. 18: Close reading exercise I due**

Jan. 19: *Macbeth*, Act 3.3-4.2

Jan. 24: *Macbeth*, Act 4.3-5.11

Jan. 25: *Measure for Measure*, Act 1-2.1

Jan. 31: *Measure for Measure*, Act 2.2-3.1.334 [or finish 3.1 to save work next week]

Feb. 2: *Measure for Measure*, Act 3.1.335-4.3

Feb. 7: *Measure for Measure*, Act 4.4-5.1

Feb. 9: *Time's Pencil*: Exhibits 1-3 for Q&A day • **Feb. 9: Question on TP or WS due**

• **Feb. 12: Close reading exercise II due**

Feb. 14: *Time's Pencil*: Exhibits 4-6 for Q&A day • **Feb. 14: Question on TP or WS due**

Feb. 16: *The Tempest*, Act 1

Feb. 21: *The Tempest*, Act 2

Feb. 23: *The Tempest*, Act 3.1-4.1.163 [Ferdinand and Miranda's exit] [Prospero masque/Caliban's rebellion]

Feb. 28: *The Tempest*, Act 4.1.164-5.1, Epilogue

• **Mar. 1: final paper prospectus due**

Mar. 2: *King Lear*, *History Scenes* 1-3 or *Tragedy* Act 1.1-1.3, as assigned

Mar. 7: *King Lear*, *History Scenes* 4-7.281 or *Tragedy* Act 1.4-2.2.289, as assigned

Mar. 9: *King Lear*, *History Scenes* 7.282-13 or *Tragedy* Act 2.2.290-3.6, as assigned

Mar. 14: *King Lear*, *History Scenes* 14-20 or *Tragedy* Act 3.7-4.5, as assigned

Mar. 16: *King Lear*, *History Scenes* 21-24 or *Tragedy* Act 4.6-5.3, as assigned

• **Mar. 17: final paper due**

Thursday, March 23: **Final exam, 8-10 am**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Participation in discussion is strongly encouraged.**

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory; more than three unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered as follows. Four unexcused absences will lower your grade two-thirds of a full letter grade (A- becomes B); five will lower your grade one full letter grade (A- becomes B-). Six or more unexcused absences will mean a failing grade.

### Assignments

Two close reading exercises (2-4 pp); one paper (6-7 pp); final exam. Students will be required to hand in questions on Shakespeare on Q&A days.

Assignments must be typed in 12-point font, be double spaced, and have reasonable margins (1 inch is generally standard; greater than 1.25 inch will not be accepted). You may work from MLA or Chicago format: just be consistent.

Please proofread and revise your written work. Extensive sloppiness and mechanical errors will result in a lower grade.

Late assignments **lose one letter grade per day, including weekends and holidays**. You may request an extension if the paper is due more than 72 hours (3 days) later, and the earlier the better: extensions are not guaranteed. In case of a looming or unexpected disaster, consideration will be given if you keep me in the loop and communicate in advance. Stay in touch.

**No incompletes will be granted except in case of documented emergency.**

## GRADES

A final grade of **C or better** in the course is required for English major credit. Final grades are based on papers and exams.

Final grades are assessed according to the following base rubric (\*\*but see below\*\*):

**35% Close Reading assignments (2-4 pp, due Jan. 18 and Feb. 12)**

**40% Final Paper (6-7 pp, due Mar. 17 – prospectus due Mar. 1)**

**25% Final Exam (Mar. 23)**

\*\*I may choose to alter the above proportions to respond to your individual situation. For instance, I may skew percentages to reward improvement over the course of the term. You can also raise your grade through class participation – contributing usefully to class discussion and to dialogue with your peers, asking questions, paying attention.\*\*

## **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course or at this university. All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. This includes ideas you get from your classmates (discussion and kicking ideas around is encouraged, so long as you document where discussion with a peer impacted your argument) and ideas you get from websites as well as books and other media. See the library website (under “guides”) for citation practices. You are not allowed to cut and paste from internet sites into your paper.

**N.B.** Most internet content on Shakespeare aimed at students is not written at the college level. Taking from this work, even in the case that you are not caught, will often result in a lower grade.

**Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade for this course.** Definitions of cheating and plagiarism are available in the “Student Conduct Code” section of the Dean of Students website, linked from the “Student Conduct” tab (<https://dos.uoregon.edu/conduct>). Please familiarize yourself with these if you are not clear on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism. You are also welcome to contact me if you have any questions about these definitions. I am very happy to talk to you about this!

If you are having trouble writing a paper or understanding what I am looking for, please contact me. I do not expect that you already know how to do what I am teaching you. Extra help is always available. There’s nothing bad about getting something wrong – often the best way to learn is to make mistakes, and this is not something to panic about. However, if you take ideas from elsewhere and pass them off as your own, you learn nothing – so the next paper will therefore be no easier – and risk extreme academic penalties. Email or come talk to me instead.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

All appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, you must meet with me by Friday, January 20. You must also consult with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.