

Spring 2017
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MWF 10-10.50
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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: you will be responsible for the critical introductions to these volumes as well as the plays themselves. The plays are *Othello*, *King Lear*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*.

Policies Attendance is mandatory for lectures and discussion sections. To be counted present, 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 exam. **Please turn off all electronic gadgets, including cell phones and computing devices. Please refrain from chatting with your neighbors during class.**

Grading 4 exams, 15% each/ 2 writing assignments, 10% each/ discussion section: written assignments and class participation, 20%

Academic Dishonesty To use anyone else's actual or paraphrased words without appropriate citation is to commit plagiarism. This includes Wikipedia. **If I have discovered that you have committed plagiarism, I will follow to the letter the protocol stipulated by the Student Conduct Code.** In certain cases, academic dishonesty may also result in suspension or dismissal from the university.

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: Schedule of Assignments

Mon 3 Apr: **Introduction**

Wed 5 Apr: *Othello*, Act 1

Thur 6 Apr: discussion section

Fri 7 Apr: *Othello*, Act 2

Mon 10 Apr: *Othello*, Act 3

Wed 12 Apr: *Othello*, Act 4

Thur 13 Apr: discussion section

Fri 14 Apr: *Othello*, Act 5

Mon 17 Apr: *Othello* review

Wed 19 Apr: ***Othello* Exam**

Thurs 20 Apr: discussion section

Fri 21 Apr: *King Lear*, Act 1

Mon 24 Apr: *King Lear*, Act 2

Wed 26 Apr: *King Lear*, Act 3

Thur 27 Apr: discussion section

Fri 28 Apr: *King Lear*, Act 4

Mon 1 May: *King Lear*, Act 5

Wed 3 May: *King Lear*, review

Writing Assignment #1 due

Thur 4 May: discussion section

Fri 5 May: ***King Lear* Exam**

Mon 8 May: *Winter's Tale* 1

Wed 10 May: *Winter's Tale* 2

Thur 11 May: discussion section (paraphrase assignment)

Fri 12 May: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 3

Mon 15 May: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 4

Wed 17 May: *The Winter's Tale*, Act 5

Thur 18 May: discussion section

Fri 19 May: *The Winter's Tale*, Review **Writing Assignment #2 due**

Mon 22 May: *The Winter's Tale*: **Conversation with Prof. Rick Rambuss, Brown University**

Tue 23 May: Weatherhead Lecture: "Mardi Gras Shakespeare," Prof. Rick Rambuss, Brown University, 3:30, Knight Library Browsing Room

Wed 24 May: ***The Winter's Tale* Exam**

Thur 25 May: no discussion section

Fri 26 May: *The Tempest*, Act 1

Mon 29 May: **Memorial Day Holiday**

Wed 31 May: *The Tempest*, Act 2

Thur 1 Jun: discussion section (poetry kit assignment)

Fri 2 Jun: *The Tempest*, Act 3

Mon 5 Jun: *The Tempest*, Act 4

Wed 7 Jun: *The Tempest*, Act 5

Thur 8 Jun: discussion section

Fri 9 Jun: ***The Tempest* Exam**