

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



## Department of English & Writing Studies

### **Shakespeare English 3227E (002) Fall/Winter 2013-14**

**Instructor:** Peggy Roffey

**Date/Time:** Tuesday 11:30am-1:15pm  
Thursday 12:30pm-1:20pm

**Location:** University College 289

#### Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): English 2371E, 2372F/G, 2373F/G and 2430E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

#### Course Description

Reading the text of a Shakespeare play exercises your imagination, stretches your vocabulary, and sets you thinking. As a reader, you can form your own picture of each character, imagine the setting and action, revel in this playwright's "sublimely indecorous linguistic energy" (Greenblatt), study his dramatic art, and ponder the insights he offers and stimulates-regarding human nature, society then and now, issues like power, politics, gender roles, family dynamics, identity, love, good and evil, revenge and reconciliation, time and mortality, memory-you name it. Reading and discussing the 12 plays on this course, acting out selected scenes, writing about the plays in essays, quizzes, and on the exam will also provide you with lots of opportunity to consider some of the questions you yourselves wrestle with both as students of literature and denizens of the 21st century. Once you have studied the text of a Shakespeare play, you will be able to attend or watch a live or film production of the play with more familiarity, greater understanding, and heightened attentiveness to the interpretive scope the text affords.

**Objectives:**

When you do your preparatory reading and reflection, participate in class discussions and in (voluntary) periodic scene enactments, and carefully complete assignments, this course provides you, as students, an opportunity to enhance and demonstrate your ability to:

- Read and interpret the 12 selected plays with attentiveness, appreciation, and critical discernment;
- Express, in discussion, your views on the art and 'import' of the plays;
- Articulate a basic understanding of the socio-political context in which Shakespeare created his plays;
- Write well-organized and stylistically correct essays-essays that make judicious use of appropriate secondary sources, show an ability to assess the relative merits of various scholarly arguments, establish and argue a specific thesis, demonstrate an intimate understanding and appreciation of the primary work or works in question, and clarify the theoretical assumptions underlying the arguments and interpretations offered.

Course Materials

**Required Texts:**

*The Norton Shakespeare Tragedies*. (Note: *Othello* is assigned; as students you will help choose the other three tragedies, according to the life questions and/or literary/critical questions on your mind these days.)

Individual copies of *The Oxford Shakespeare-Oxford World Classics* edition of the following plays:

<i>A Winter's Tale</i>	<i>Richard III</i>
<i>As You Like It</i>	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
<i>Henry V</i>	<i>The Tempest</i>
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	<i>Twelfth Night</i>

Methods of Evaluation

Commentary on Stratford Theatre production	Due Oct. 8	10%
Essay #1	Due Dec.5	20%
Essay #2	Due Mar.27	20%
In class quizzes		15%
Final Exam		35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

**Timetable:**

**Class Meetings-"Play Bill" 2013-2014**

September 10, 12, 17, 19 - *Richard III* (History Play)

September 24, 26, October 3 - *The Merchant of Venice* (Stratford trip Oct. 1) (Problem Comedy)

October 8, 10, 15, 17 - *Othello* (Tragedy); voting on student choice of next Tragedy

October 22, 24, 29, 31 - *A Winter's Tale* (Romance)

November 5, 7, 12, 14 - Tragedy (Student Choice)

November 19, 21, 26, 28 - *Twelfth Night* (Festive Comedy)

December 3, S-Voting on Students' Choice of two second-term Tragedies; Recap of 1st Term

January 7, 9, 14, 16 - Tragedy (Student Choice)

January 21, 23, 28, 30 - *Measure for Measure* (Problem Play)

February 4, 6, 11, 13 - *Henry V* (History Play)

February 25, 27, March 4, 6 - *As You Like It* (Comedy)

March 11, 13, 18, 20 - Tragedy (Student Choice)

March 25, 27, April 1, 3, 8 - *The Tempest* (Romance); course summary; exam tips.

**Expectations for English 3227E Section 002:**

Read assigned selections BEFORE you come to class; come ready with your thoughts, responses, interpretations, and questions. Bring your text to each class. Hand in essays on the Due Dates. Two marks will be deducted for every day late without previous notice or a special request. No faxed or emailed essays can be accepted. Keep a copy of this syllabus handy so you know which play we'll be studying each week

**How the course works:**

Each class meeting will be a combination of instructor commentary and class discussion, interspersed, for selected plays, with clips from various film productions. We will devote 4 classes to each play; in the 4th hour we will discuss how a particular scene could be played out, and invite volunteers (who will be enlisted ahead of time) to perform to our "directions." We will pay attention to the performance choices required by the text and to the way performance both shapes and is shaped by interpretation. We will have six in-class quizzes: you will get the question in advance, write your response for 20 minutes in class, and engage in discussion of the question for the rest of the class.

**Shakespeare Course Bus Trip to Stratford:** All sections of English 3227E include a bus trip October 1 to the evening production of The Merchant of Venice.

Ticket and bus \$35 total.

To book your tickets follow the steps below:

1. Call Stratford's Groups and Schools box office at 1.800.567.1600
  - Choose the Groups and Schools option when prompted
  - Quote promotion code 50427 to the call centre agent.
  - Please advise the agent that you will also be booking the bus from Western University.
2. You can choose to have your tickets emailed right to your inbox by selecting Stratford's "Deliver by Email" delivery option.

Remember to bring your printed ticket with you on October 1. The bus will pick us up in the laneway between UC and Somerville House at 6pm.

If you choose to drive on your own, the ticket price is \$25.00

#### Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

[http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

#### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

#### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.