

Department of English & Writing Studies

Shakespeare
English 3227E (002)
Fall/Winter 2016-17

Instructor: Dr. Mark Stephenson
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:30
or by appt
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Location: Arts & Humanities Building 1B06

Date/Time: Tuesday 11:30am-1:30pm, Thursday
12:30pm-1:30pm

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

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

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

This course will engage in a close study of twelve of Shakespeare's dramatic works. Emphasis will be placed on understanding them in the context of their initial production (in every sense of that word) as artefacts of early modern English culture. We will examine the plays in light of such concerns as early modern conceptions of gender, race, class, and subjectivity in general, the emergence of print culture, the processes of England's nation formation and its attendant conception of history, the early modern discourse of colonialism, the representation of monarchy, the rise of the theatre as an arm of the nascent public sphere, and Shakespeare's engagements with religion and the Bible. Attention will also be paid to the play's formal aspects: to their techniques of plot construction and characterization, to their employment of poetic language, rhetoric, and genre, and to their use of stage craft. We will also consider our own 21st century, post-modern culture's continued fascination with Shakespeare and his time – and the necessary and compelling re-evaluation of Shakespeare's nationalist interests in light of Brexit.

Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Learn to analyze many of the prominent formal features of twelve representative plays by Shakespeare;
- Become familiar with the defining features of the major generic divisions within Shakespeare's body of dramatic work;
- Learn about the sources of Shakespeare's plays in prior literary works and early modern English history, and about the performance history of the plays;
- Acquaint themselves with some of the prominent theoretical approaches to Shakespeare's work;
- Become acquainted with the historical, political and cultural back-drop within which Shakespeare plied his craft;
- Learn to effectively communicate their ideas about Shakespeare's plays through in-class discussion and writing persuasive essays.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

The Norton Shakespeare. 2nd Edition, 2 Vols. Gen. ed. Stephen Greenblatt. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2008.

MacDonald, Russ. *The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare: An Introduction with Documents*. New York: Palgrave, 2001.

Recommended: Department recommended style guide.

Methods of Evaluation

Paper 1 (First Term – Due Week 8, min. 1250 words)	15%
Paper 2 (Second Term – Due no later than Week 13 min. 2500 words)	25%
Performance or Performance Review (Due no later than Week 8, min. 1250 words)	10%
Attendance and Participation	5%
Mid-term Test (In class, 1hr., Week 12)	10%
Final Exam (3hrs, sometime during Final Exam Period)	<u>35%</u>
	100%

Late Policy:

Written assignments are subject to penalties if turned in later than 3:30 p.m. (in class) on their date due. Note also that **electronic submissions of written assignments will not be accepted**. Late papers will be docked 2% per day, including weekends; no paper will be accepted beyond two weeks after the due date. Extensions for assignments must be obtained no later than 4:00 p.m. the day before the assignment is due. If you do not or cannot deliver your paper in class on the due date, you must drop it off in the English Department Drop-Box, located outside the English Office on the second floor of University College – **do not slip your paper under my office door**.

Participation/Attendance:

Attendance will be taken daily, and your attendance in class will form the bulk of this grade. However, your participation in class – answering and asking questions, engaging in discussions and so forth – will also play a factor in determining the full extent of this grade.

Mid-term Test:

This 1hr. test will take place, in class, on **[Monday, Nov. 24.]** It will consist of a section of identification passages and a section of definitions.

Exam:

This will consist of two sections of identification passages (one from the plays, one from “Documents”), a section of definitions and an essay. It will cover all of the material from the course, excluding only the *exact* material on which you were tested on in the Mid-term Test.

Papers:

I will give you details on each of the two papers for the course closer to their due dates.

Performance Review or Performance:

You may do either a Performance Review or a Performance, with an accompanying “Performance Review” – I will have more to say about this in class.

Films:

We will be screening four film versions of Shakespeare's plays; these screenings will take place outside of class time, with the exact date, time and place of each screening TBA. While attendance at the screenings is not mandatory, it is highly recommended. If you are unable to attend a screening, you must watch the film in question on your own time, as we will be discussing all of the films in class, and you may also be tested on them.

Timetable:

Fall Term

The Taming of the Shrew
Titus Andronicus
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Romeo and Juliet
Richard II
Henry V

Winter Term

Hamlet
Twelfth Night
Measure for Measure
Macbeth
King Lear
The Tempest

The primary readings for the course are these twelve Shakespeare plays, along with the introductions to each of them in *The Norton*. Read each play and their individual introduction first, then proceed to the assigned secondary readings for the play, the majority of which come from *The Bedford Companion* (BC in the calendar). These latter consist of further introductory materials that pertain to the play under discussion, often along with relevant cultural documents from the period; some of these readings will also be drawn from *The Norton* (NS in the calendar; unless otherwise noted, page #s refer to the "Comedies" volume; the material in question is found in all of the other volumes in the four volume Norton Shakespeare, and in the appendices of the two and one volume editions). I will also provide a small amount of further secondary materials in the form of handouts.

Note that changes may be made to the syllabus, with sufficient advance warning, as the course proceeds.

Fall Term

Week 1

Introduction to the Course: Who Was/Is "Shakespeare?" and A Brief History of Critical Approaches to Shakespeare

Secondary Reading: "Shakespeare, 'Shakespeare,' and the Problem of Authorship" BC 11-28, esp. "What is an Author?" 26-8; "The House Known as Shakespeare's Birthplace," "Record of Shakespeare's Baptism," and "Map of Stratford-upon-Avon, BC 29-31; Robert Greene on Shakespeare, NS 993-4; Francis Meres on S, NS 994-5; Front Matter from the First Folio NS 1009-112; Milton on S, NS 1013; "Timeline" NS 1016-1020

Week 2

Introduction to the Course (conclusion)

The Taming of the Shrew

Secondary Reading: "Early Modern English" BC 38-42; "Comedy" BC 81-85; "Clothing" BC 231-33; "The Situation of Women" (including introductory paragraph to "Chapter 8") and "Patriarchy" BC 253-263; "The Social Structure" and "The Body Politic" BC 273-277, "Shakespeare's Theatre and the Problem of Authority" BC 322-24; "Haves and Have-Nots," "Riot and Disorder," "The Legal Status of Women" and "Women and Print," NS 7-13

Week 3

Taming (concl.)

Film (Exact Date TBA): *Titus* (1999, dir. Julie Taymor; 162 min.)

Week 4

Titus Andronicus

Secondary Reading: "Tragedy" in *BC* 85-90; from Aristotle's *Poetics* *BC* 101-105; Elizabeth I, "Edict Arranging for the Expulsion... of Negroes and Blackamoors," *BC* 302; "Ovid" *BC* 160-62; Title Page of *Titus* *BC* 211; "The English and Otherness" *NS* 22-25; from Montaigne, "Of Cannibals," from Ovid, "Tereus, Procne, and Philomela," and from "The Allegory of the Vine" from the Gospel of John (Handout)

Week 5

Titus (concl.)

Week 6

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Secondary Reading: "The Forms of Dramatic Language" *BC* 47-55; "The Monarchs" *BC* 308-314; Forman, from His *Diary*, "On a Dream... [etc.]." *BC* 339; Hazlitt, Review of *MSND*," "Two Productions of *MSND*" and Speaight, "Review of Brook's *MSND*" *BC* 393-99; "A Female Monarch in a Male's World" *NS* 18-21; excerpts from Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* (Handout)

Week 7

MSND (concl.)

Week 8

Romeo and Juliet

Secondary Reading: TBA

Paper #1 Due

Week 9

Romeo and Juliet (concl.)

Richard II

Secondary Reading: "History" *BC* 90-93; Lambarde, from "His Notes of a Conversation with Queen Elizabeth I about *Richard II*," *BC* 107; "The Theatre and the Authorities" *BC* 123-126; from *Patriarcha* *BC* 283-285; from *An Homily against Disobedience and Willful Rebellion* *BC* 345-49; Augustine Phillips etc. on *Richard II* *NS* 999-1,000

Week 10

Richard II (cont.)

Week 11

Richard II (concl.)

Henry V

Secondary Reading: "The Playhouses" *BC* 114-20; Map Showing Theatres of London *BC* 127; "Illustration of the Second Globe" and "Copy of DeWitt's Sketch" *BC* 134-35; from Machiavelli, *The Prince* *BC* 334-6; from *Henry IV Pt. 2*, 2.2 (*NS* "Histories," 703-708) and 5.5 and "Epilogue," 753-757)

Film (Exact Date TBA): *Henry V* (1989, dir. Kenneth Branagh; 138 min.)

Week 12

Henry V (concl.)

Midterm Test (In Class, 1hr.)

Week 13

Henry V (concl.)

Winter Term

Week 1

Hamlet

Secondary Reading: from *The Book of Common Prayer* BC 171-74; "What is Your Text?" BC 194-210; "Illustration of a Seventeenth-Century Print Shop," BC 214; facsimiles of "To be or not to be" BC 216-7; from Vaughan, *Natural and Artificial Directions for Health*," BC 279; 'Robert Edmond Jones's Set Design... for *Hamlet*," BC 391

Film (Exact Date TBA): *Hamlet* (2000, dir. Michael Almereyda; 112 min.)

Week 2

Hamlet (cont.)

Week 3

Hamlet (concl.)

Week 4

Twelfth Night

Secondary Reading: From Sidney's *The Defense of Poesy*, "Comedy" BC 99; "What about Homosexuality?" BC 272-3; "Of Buggery or Sodomy" BC 296-298; from *The Teares of an Affectionate Shepherd* BC 298-99; "The Stage and Its Opponents" BC 324-5; from *The Anatomy of Abuses* BC 351-2; "The Enemies of the Stage" NS 36-8; "The Fetishism of Dress" NS 59-61; Shakespeare's Sonnets 1, 3 (NS "Romances and Poems," 606-7) and 20 (613).

Week 5

Twelfth Night (concl.);

Week 6

Measure for Measure

Secondary Reading: TBA

Week 7

Reading Week: No Classes

Week 8

Measure for Measure (concl.) **Performance Review Assignment Due**

Film (Exact Date TBA): *Macbeth* (1971, dir. Roman Polanski; 140 min.)

Week 9

Macbeth

Secondary Reading: “Primogeniture” BC 263-65; Smith, from *De Republica Anglorum*, “Of Children” BC 292; James I’s Letters BC 331-4; from *Basilikon Doron* BC 336-9; “Three Lady Macbeths,” BC 386-7; On James I and His Court NS 25-30; “Tanistry” from Spenser’s *View*, “The Decision of the Judges on Gavelkind, 1606” (Handout)

Week 10

Macbeth (concl.)

Week 11

King Lear

Secondary Reading: TBA

Week 12

King Lear (concl.)

Week 13

The Tempest

Secondary Reading: “Romance” BC 94-97; from *A True Reportory of the Wreck* [etc.] BC 180-82; from Montaigne’s “Of Cannibals” (c.f. “Handout” for *Titus*); further readings TBA **Paper #2 Due**

Week 14

The Tempest (concl.) and Exam Review

Final Exam: Exact Date TBA

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.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

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

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.

Be aware that if you are caught engaging in plagiarism, it will result, at the very least, in a zero for the assignment.

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.