

Department of English & Writing Studies

Shakespeare
English 3330E (001)
Fall/Winter 2018-19

Instructor: James Purkis
jpurkis@uwo.ca | UC4412 | x85835

Course Location: Arts & Humanities Building 1B06

Teaching Assistant: Blake Robertson

Course Date/Time: Tuesday 10:30 am -
12:30 pm | Thursday 10:30 – 11:30 am

Antirequisites: English 2371E, English 2372F/G, English 2373F/G, English 2430E and the former English 3227E.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1000-1999, 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

Shakespeare remains one of the most influential of English writers. This course studies twelve plays across a range of genres. Instructors may integrate theatre-oriented exercises and/or other dramatic or non-dramatic material.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Read the drama as participant in the culture in which it was first written, addressing matters of subjectivity, sexuality, nationality, 'race', revolt, gender, history, and literary tradition;
- Understand and explore the interpretative possibilities and demands of staged drama, including modern performance, as it differs from print;
- Gain or develop knowledge of early-modern literary devices, especially verse;
- Hone research skills, including the formulation of complex arguments, the use of textual support and analysis in argumentation and interpretative work, the uses of historical or contextual material for interpretation, and how to find and evaluate critical material and incorporate it into the essay writing process;
- Improve core writing skills through short, time-limited exercises;
- Improve oral communication skills through class discussion.

Course Materials

Folger Shakespeare Library editions of the course plays, edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine, are available from the bookstore. Students are not required to use these editions, but it is very strongly recommended that they do so.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Article Précis and discussion	10%	due Oct 30
Essay One	20%	due Dec 4
Essay Two	20%	due Mar 26
In-Class Quizzes	10%	unannounced, written over the year
Scene Preparation write up	10%	due one week after performance
Final Exam (3 hrs)	30%	final exam period

Essay One:

A 2,000 word essay. Questions will be given in class four weeks into the semester. Your essay must draw critically on at least one piece of secondary reading that is relevant to your topic of discussion. Spark notes and its equivalents on the market or internet may be consulted (and if consulted, should be included in your bibliography), but *do not* fulfil this assignment's secondary reading requirement. Please note the warning about plagiarism elsewhere in the course guide. If you are unsure about your scholarly practice, please discuss it with your instructor.

Essays must include a bibliography (don't forget to cite your primary reading). While demonstrating a knowledge of relevant criticism is important, formulating a cogent argument, supported with close readings of the text, is essential.

Essay Two:

A 2,500 word essay. The requirements otherwise are the same as for the first essay, except your second essay must draw critically on TWO pieces of secondary reading that are relevant to your topic of discussion.

Article Précis and Discussion:

You will be asked to read and summarize (in 100 words) a scholarly article on one of the first three plays. You will then write a short piece (500-600 words) that responds to the article through discussion of the play in question. You may not use this article as your instance of secondary reading for your first or second essay.

Quizzes:

Over the course of the year, in class, students will write five quizzes; each will last twenty minutes. Two or three of these quizzes will be analyses of a short passage from a play on the course (approximately 10 lines), which ask you to comment on the verse or prose in which the passage is written, its language and poetic effects, and place the extract in the larger context of the play. Two or three quizzes will ask you to address an interpretative question on the play under discussion. All quizzes are of equal value (i.e. 2.5% of your final grade each). The highest four marks will count towards the final grade.

Scene Preparations:

To explore the complications of understanding Shakespeare's work as drama, each student participates in an acted presentation. Presenting a scene involves rehearsing a passage of around 200 lines, performing that scene for the class, and writing a follow-up report of no more than 1500 words. This preparation is not a test of acting ability, but rather a means to explore the choices and demands that performance entails. Your report should describe, with specific textual illustration, what you learned about the play from rehearsing and acting the scene, and from discussion following your presentation. You might address some of the following questions:

1. What did you learn about the character you played, and about her/his place in the scene and the play?
2. What did you learn about other characters in the scene: anything surprising or awkward?
3. What did you learn about the function(s) of your scene in the play?
4. What interpretative obligations did the text appear to impose?
5. What textual ambiguities did you need to resolve in performance?
6. What important performance options were available? What choices did you make, and what led you to make them?
7. What was the interpretative result? What readings of character, action, and so on were opened or closed by your choices?

Keep careful track of the practical and interpretative decisions that you and your group take, particularly where the script may seem to invite choice among a number of possibilities. You might find it helpful to keep a journal of your rehearsal process.

For obvious reasons, do not try to finalize your report until you have performed and discussed your scenes, but do prepare yourself to complete it immediately after your final in-class presentation. The report is due, without fail, one week after your presentation.

The composition of groups and the dates of performance – marked by SP in the schedule – will be arranged in the first few weeks of classes.

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/Student%20Information.html>

Additional Information

Attendance: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

Submission of assignments: Written assignments may be submitted in class, given to me in person, sent to me (at the Department) by post or courier, or may be submitted in the drop box outside the Department of English office (UC 2041). Do *not* put assignments under my office door or email or fax (!) assignments. Assignments submitted in these ways will not be accepted. Please keep a copy of all assignments submitted.

Grace days: You are each given three grace days, which you can use all at once, or allocate between your assignments (except in-class quizzes, of course). When your grace days are gone, they are gone, and you are faced with a late assignment (see next section). In view of these days and of the advance notice given for each assignment, further extensions will only be given in accordance with the statement on academic accommodation below.

Late assignments: If you submit an assignment after the due date (plus whatever grace days you have remaining) but within two weeks of it, the grade will be reduced by a penalty of 2% for each calendar day that it is late. The arrangements for date-stamping essays in the Department of English essay box are accepted for late essays.

Papers submitted more than two weeks after the due date will not be accepted unless academic accommodation has been agreed in accordance with the statement below.

All course work must be completed by the end of the winter term.

Timetable

2018		2019	
SEPT 6	Introduction	JAN 8	<i>Henry V</i>
SEPT 11	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	JAN 10	<i>Henry V</i>
SEPT 13	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	JAN 15	<i>Henry V</i>
SEPT 18	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	JAN 17	<i>Henry V</i>
SEPT 20	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	JAN 22	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
SEPT 25	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	JAN 24	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
SEPT 27	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	JAN 29	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
OCT 2	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	JAN 31	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
OCT 4	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	FEB 5	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> *SP 5 & 6
{OCT 8-12	FALL READING WEEK}	FEB 7	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
OCT 16	<i>Coriolanus</i> *SP 1 & 2	FEB 12	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
OCT 18	<i>Coriolanus</i> *Stratford theatre trip	FEB 14	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
OCT 23	<i>Coriolanus</i>	{FEB 18-22	SPRING READING WEEK}
OCT 25	<i>Coriolanus</i>	FEB 26	<i>Pericles</i>
OCT 30	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> *Article Précis due	FEB 28	<i>Pericles</i>
NOV 1	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	MAR 5	<i>Pericles</i>
NOV 6	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	MAR 7	<i>Pericles</i> *SP 7 & 8
NOV 8	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	MAR 12	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>
NOV 13	<i>Othello</i> *SP 3 & 4	MAR 14	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>
NOV 15	<i>Othello</i>	MAR 19	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>
NOV 20	<i>Othello</i>	MAR 21	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>
NOV 22	<i>Othello</i>	MAR 26	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i> *Essay 2 due
NOV 27	<i>Henry IV Pt 1</i>	MAR 28	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>
NOV 29	<i>Henry IV Pt 1</i>	APR 2	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>
DEC 4	<i>Henry IV Pt 1</i> *Essay 1 due	APR 4	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>
DEC 6	<i>Henry IV Pt 1</i>	APR 9	Remainders & Reminders

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.

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

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.

Booking tickets to *Coriolanus* at the Stratford Festival (Thursday, October 18, 8pm):

Call the Schools and Groups department at 1-800-567-1600 using promo code 82043

Tickets are available in A Zone for \$20 or in Spotlight Zone for \$28 plus tax (aisle zone seats are \$5 extra)

Direct return bus service from Western University to the Avon Theatre can be purchased with your tickets for \$15 incl. (Take the bus; it's the green option)

You can choose to have your tickets delivered by email

If you choose not to take the bus, you can order your ticket online using the same promo code 82043

There are no service or booking fees

Travel on the day to Stratford:

Buses leave from south end of UC (outside AHB building) at 6pm. We can't wait for latecomers, so please make sure you are on time

We will return directly after the show, and drop you off either at the same place you got on the bus or else at the university gates on Richmond around midnight