Department of English & Writing Studies

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

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Stephenson  
Email: mstephe9@uwo.ca  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:30  
or by appt  
Office: AHB 2G28L  
Office Phone: 519-661-2111 x86212

**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:

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) | 35% |

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Term</th>
<th>Winter Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Taming of the Shrew</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Titus Andronicus</td>
<td>Twelfth Night</td>
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<td>A Midsummer Night's Dream</td>
<td>Measure for Measure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
<td>Macbeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard II</td>
<td>King Lear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry V</td>
<td>The Tempest</td>
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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


**Week 2**
Introduction to the Course (conclusion)

*The Taming of the Shrew*

Week 3

*Titania* (concl.)

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

Week 4

*Titus Andronicus*


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*


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; “Tanisty” 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.