

Huron University College
ENG 2372F 550:
Shakespeare
2018

Class Meetings: M 12:30-2:30; W 1:30-2:30
Location: HUC-W103
Instructor: Dr. Scott Schofield
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Office Hours: T/TH 2:30-3:30 or by
appointment

Course Description

This course will introduce students to a select number of Shakespeare's plays with examples from each of the major genres. Our close readings will see us engage with a variety of topics, including gender and performance, the representation of race, nationalism, the state of early modern English, the production of playtexts in manuscript, print and digital media, and the early modern stage. We will also examine select scenes from modern adaptations of *Richard II*, *Hamlet*, *Henry V* and others. In October, students will participate in a class trip where they will see *Coriolanus* at The Stratford Festival.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Gain a general understanding of the different genres of Shakespearean drama.
- Develop effective strategies of close reading through various class assignments.
- Gain a working knowledge of specialized concepts/vocabulary in both textual and performance criticism.
- Gain a sense of periodization and place for the various works studied.
- Gain an understanding of the textual history of the various plays studied in the course.
- Construct a coherent argument (i.e. a thesis) about the texts they have read.
- Write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate MLA conventions for scholarly-critical writing.
- Locate and engage with secondary, critical readings.
- Balance and integrate criticism with their own analysis of the primary texts.
- Appreciate the value of working collaboratively in group settings

Required Texts: All Readings are available online via *the New Oxford Shakespeare* eds. Gary Taylor, John Jowett, Terri Bourus, and Gabriel Egan (Oxford UP, 2016-2018).
<http://alpha.lib.uwo.ca/record=b6845108~S20>

Events.

On Thursday October 18th, at 8:00 pm, the classes of ENG2372F and ENG3333E will see *Coriolanus* at the Stratford Festival. Details regarding the purchase of tickets can be found on OWL.

Assessment:**Attendance, Participation and Workshops: Regular Weekly Exercises (15%)**

Students are expected to attend and participate regularly throughout the course.

There are various ways to participate, including: answering questions in class, engaging in workshops, and coming to office hours. One half of the participation grade will be posted on November 5th. The second portion of the grade will come at the end of term.

A note on workshops: At least one hour of each week will be reserved for group exercises and/or workshops. It is expected that you take these moments seriously and that your contribution is both thoughtful and considerate.

In Production Assignment: 500-600 words. Due October 3rd (10%)

For this assignment, you will make a case for a performance of *Coriolanus* by focusing on a short section of 50 lines. As part of your argument, you will consider such literary fundamentals as character, language and tone while also looking at matters of staging and performance, such as intonation and gesture, set design etc.

The Illustrated Shakespeare Assignment: 700-850 words. Due November 14th (15%)

For this assignment, you will research different attempts at illustrating *Hamlet*, be it in early and later editions, visual art, graphic novels etc. You may want to limit your focus to a comparison of two editions, or perhaps you will examine how a key scene or character has been illustrated in multiple editions. Either way, you need to make an argument that considers how image informs (i.e. shapes, alters, challenges) our understanding of text.

Final Essay: 2000 words. Due: December 5th (25%)

A comparative essay on two of the works studied in the term. Topics will be distributed well in advance of the due date.

Final Exam TBA (35%)

A cumulative exam during the December exam period. Date to be determined. Please do not book travel plans before schedule is finalized.

Essay Format:

All written assignments should be double-spaced and printed in a standard font. Please follow Modern Languages Association (MLA) format. Here is a link to the UWO Library's up-to-date MLA style guidelines:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA.pdf>

Students are responsible for retaining back-up copies of their papers and of their notes and drafts.

Late Essays and Assignments

All essays and assignments are due on OWL, by midnight on the specified date (see above). Essays and assignments submitted after the due date will receive a penalty of 2% per day (including weekends). No essay or assignment will be accepted later than seven days after the original due date unless prior, special arrangements have been made with the instructor. **Essays are to be submitted as MS Word or PDF files, on OWL. Late essays will probably not receive extended commentary.**

Final Exam

The final examination (35%) will cover all material from the term. The date of the final examination is to be set by the Registrar during the formal examination period.

Class Schedule

Introduction: Overview and Samples

Sept 10/12

- Introduction to the Course
- The sights and sounds of Early Modern England
- The Page, the Stage and the in-between
- Experimental Poetics: Marlowe and Shakespeare

Sept 17/19:

- *As You Like it*

Sept 24/26

- *As You Like it*

Oct 1/3

- *Coriolanus*

Oct 15-17

- *Coriolanus*

Trip to Stratford, October 18th.

Oct. 22-24

- *Richard II*

Oct. 29/31

- *Richard II*

Nov. 5/7

- *Hamlet*

Nov. 12/14

- *Hamlet*

Nov. 19/21

- *Henry V*

Nov. 26/28

- *Henry V*

Dec. 3/5

- *The Tempest*
- **Final Exam: TBA**



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.