

Shakespeare

8:147 Spring 2009

MW 5:30-6:45 213 EPB

Prof. Porter 305A EPB

Office Hours MW 4:00-5:30

jeff-porter@uiowa.edu

Description

This course will involve a careful study of Shakespeare's major plays, including his representative comedies, tragedies, and romances. In class lecture and discussion we will explore provocative issues implicit in Shakespeare's drama, such as power and authority, language and identity, gender and desire, wit and witchcraft, and race and class. In addition to engaging with each play as a unique instance of dramatic art, we will also focus on the ways in which Shakespeare's work is embedded in early modern culture, considering how it is linked to intellectual trends, religious controversies, and currents in Renaissance popular culture. When time permits, we will screen clips from film versions of the plays.

Texts:

Greenblatt, et. al, *The Norton Shakespeare*

McDonald, *The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare (2nd ed.)*

Texts are available at Prairie Lights bookstore.

Assignments & Grading

- 1) Participation: come to each class having read the day's assignment; be prepared to listen, ask questions, and help make sense of the readings (20%)
 - 2) 2 two-page close readings [CR] (20%)
 - 3) Midterm Exam (20%)
 - 4) Final Exam (20%)
 - 5) 2 Memorizations (20%)
- Stay tuned for fuller details about required assignments and tests.

Attendance

Attendance is required. More than 3 unexcused absences will lower your grade.

Schedule

Week 1

Wed. 1/23 Introduction to the syllabus, assignments, and the texts

Week 2

Mon. 1/26 **A Preface to Shakespeare**

Readings: "General Introduction," **Norton** (1-74)

Wed. 1/28 ***Richard III***

Acts 1-2

Week 3

Mon. 2/2 Acts 3-5
Readings: "Shakespeare's Reading," **Companion** (chap. 5)

Wed. 2/4 *Merchant of Venice*
Acts 1-2

Week 4

Mon. 2/9 Acts 3-4

Wed. 2/11 Act 5
Close Reading #1

Week 5

Mon. 2/16 *Romeo and Juliet*
Acts 1-2

Readings: "Shakespeare's Dramatic Language," **Companion** (chap. 2)
Wed. 2/18 Acts 3-5
Close Reading #1 due

Week 6

Mon. 2/23 *Twelfth Night*
Acts 1-2

Readings: "Performances and Playhouses," **Companion** (chap. 4)
Wed. 2/25 Acts 3-5
Memorization #1

Week 7

Mon. 3/2 *Hamlet*
Acts 1-2

Wed. 3/4 Acts 3-4

Week 8

Mon. 3/9 Act 5
Readings: "What is Your Text?" **Companion** (chap. 6)

Wed. 3/11 **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

Mon. 3/16 Spring Break

Wed. 3/18 Spring Break

Week 10

Mon. 3/23 *Othello*
Acts 1-2

Wed. 3/25 Acts 3-4

Week 11

Mon. 3/30 Act 5

Wed. 4/1 Discussion

Week 12

Mon. 4/6

King Lear

Acts 1-2

Readings: "Men and Women: Gender, Family, Society," **Companion** (chap. 8)

Wed. 4/8

Acts 3-4

Close Reading #2**Week 13**

Mon. 4/13

Act 5

Wed. 4/15

Macbeth

Acts 1-2

Readings: "Politics and Religion," **Companion** (chap. 9)**Week 14**

Mon. 4/20

Acts 3-4

Wed. 4/22

Act 5

Week 15

Mon. 4/27

The Tempest

Acts 1-2

Memorization #2

Wed. 4/29

Acts 3-4

Week 16

Mon. 5/4

Act 5

Wed. 5/6

Conclusion

Final Exam: Friday, May 15 at 4:30

The College of Liberal Arts and Science Policies and Procedure**Administrative Home**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall or see the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml) [www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml].

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their standard University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Students should check this account frequently. (*Operations Manual*, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO

and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) at www.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. (*Operations Manual*, IV.16.14. Scroll down to e. h. and i.)*The CLAS policy statements have been summarized from the web pages of the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) and The University of Iowa [Operations Manual](#).)