ENGL 365: Shakespeare
Longwood University
Spring 2020

Professor: Dr. Shawn Smith
Office: Grainger B14
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-1 (and by appointment--use e-mail below)
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Web Page: http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net
Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 in Grainger G18.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to the works of William Shakespeare. In addition to discussing the themes and ideas that arise in these plays, we will spend a great deal of time exploring Shakespeare's linguistic and dramatic achievement by balancing close readings of the text with an awareness that Shakespeare's works are plays meant to be performed on a stage. Pre-requisite: Goal 3 or permission of the instructor. 3 Credits.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the University Bookstore)

- The Norton Shakespeare: Essential Plays/The Sonnets, 3rd ed. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt [ISBN: 978-0-393-93863-0] This is not a complete edition of Shakespeare, but if you feel that this is the time to buy a complete Shakespeare, there is also a complete 3rd ed. of the Norton. The line numbers will be the same, so you’ll be working with the same texts as the rest of the class. If you already have a good, annotated, modern edition of Shakespeare (Bevington, Riverside, Pelican) feel free to use that instead, though the line numbers might be a bit off in scenes written in prose. Cheap B&N editions without footnotes are difficult to use, and the texts tend to be poorly edited, if they’re edited at all—you should avoid them. I strongly urge you NOT to use an electronic version of Shakespeare for this course. Most do not contain line numbers, most do not represent line endings in verse properly, and most do not contain footnotes. It is also difficult to read Shakespeare in a meaningful way without marking up the text. You will be at a serious disadvantage if you use an e-text version of Shakespeare in this course.

- Please acquaint yourself with the location of the Oxford English Dictionary (second edition) in the library’s Humanities Reading Room (210) at your earliest convenience (yes, there’s an online version on the library web site, but the print copy will help you generate ideas better). There are other important Shakespeare reference works in the Humanities Reading Room that are not available online in any form. If it’s locked, get someone at the library to open it for you. Other important resources include The Shakespeare Collection (including the Arden Shakespeare) and the World Shakespeare Bibliography (both available in the library’s databases list).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING [see web version of syllabus for hyperlinks]

- One five-page (minimum) paraphrase and analysis (.pdf) essay on a sonnet of your choice (20% of final grade). Use my Poetry Explication Checklist (.pdf) and OED Handout (.pdf) as guides. I encourage you to discuss a draft of this paper with me during my office hours.

- A five-page (minimum) paper based on your contribution to a group performance project, but also supported with your own ideas and additional research. (20%).

- Midterm and final exams (25% each of final grade). You will need blue books for these exams.

- Class preparation and participation (10%). Come to class prepared to discuss characters and episodes in the readings, as well as one thing from the readings you don’t understand. The Study Guides on my web page offer a good indication of the kinds of questions I’ll ask during class to get the discussion started. I will call on people randomly to assess this portion of the grade. I will also ask people to read passages during class. Chronic failure to bring your book to class will result in an F for this portion of your grade.

http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net/shakespeare/syllabus.pdf

[Updated: 13 February 2020]
POLICY MATTERS

It is essential that you read thoroughly and carefully, and this means marking up your book with underlining, comments, and questions. Think of it as “texting the book.” You’ll need to identify characters and quotations we discuss in class on the exams, so it will be useful to find some way of highlighting them in your books during class discussion. Shakespeare’s plays are both thematically and linguistically complicated in a number of ways, and I encourage you to locate these complications and to engage the class in a discussion of them. Please consult the study questions on my web page to prepare for class.

Please arrive on time, and be prepared to listen, to think, and to contribute. Please turn off wireless phones, headphones, and other electronic devices that might disrupt class—and put them away, out of sight, and beyond the reach of your hands. Please treat other students and your instructor in a civil and respectful manner. About taking notes on laptops and tablets: I urge you not to do this. Taking notes by hand forces you to process information in a more productive way than transcribing comments into a word processor does. Laptops not only present you with numerous distractions (e-mail, Facebook, etc.), but they are also a distraction for other students, especially those sitting behind you. Students who take notes on laptops or tablets tend to do poorly in this course.

The Longwood University attendance policy in the Undergraduate Catalog will be the attendance policy for this course. You will receive an F on work missed because of unexcused absences. Your grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you miss 10 percent of the scheduled class meeting times for unexcused absences. You will receive an F if you miss a total (excused and unexcused) of 25 percent of the scheduled class meeting times. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to check with me at the end of class to make sure that I’ve counted your late arrival. Three late arrivals will be counted as an absence. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate (as well as announcements about syllabus changes or other matters; it’s also your responsibility to pick up papers or exams that might have been handed back). Exams can be made up only under the most grave of circumstances, and with documentation from an MD or a Longwood University official. If you foresee a conflict, I expect you to discuss it with me beforehand. If you expect a prolonged absence from class because of illness or emergency, you should inform the Dean of Students. Written assignments handed in late will lose one letter grade for each class day late. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to the Longwood University Office of Student Conduct and Integrity.

Please submit all written work for this course to me in hard copy—e-mail attachments will not be accepted. You should keep electronic (preferably on Dropbox or some sort of cloud server in case your computer has problems) versions of any work you submit for this class, and the graded work I hand back to you, until after you have received your final grade. In case of inclement weather, continue to read the daily assignments, and look for an e-mail from me. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability should contact me privately. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office for Disability Services (103 Graham Building, 395.2391) to register for services.

Mandatory Reporting of Crimes and Sexual Misconduct: In accord with its history and mission, Longwood University believes that each individual should be treated with respect and dignity and that any form of crime or violence is incompatible with Longwood’s commitment to the dignity and worth of the individual. Longwood University is committed to providing a healthy living, learning and working environment which promotes personal integrity, civility and mutual respect. If you have been the victim of a crime or sexual misconduct we encourage you to report this. If you disclose this to a faculty member or employee (with the exception of our Limited Reporting and Confidential Reporting Resources; for example, the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff), she or he is required by law to notify the appropriate University officials. The faculty member or employee cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the information that has been shared. Please know that all reported information is treated with discretion and respect and kept as private as possible. For more information about your options at Longwood, the most current forms of these policies are available here:

http://www.longwood.edu/police/crimereports.htm
http://www.longwood.edu/studentconduct/12050.htm
http://www.longwood.edu/titleix

http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net/shakespeare/syllabus.pdf [Updated: 13 February 2020]
CALENDAR

The best way to prepare for class is to read the entire play before we start discussing it, and then read it again more carefully. Regardless of your reading technique, expect to cover the first two acts on the first day, the second two acts on the second day, and the fifth act on the last day.

14 Jan.: Course introduction.
16 Jan.: A Midsummer Night’s Dream
21 Jan.: A Midsummer Night’s Dream
23 Jan.: A Midsummer Night’s Dream
28 Jan.: Come to class prepared to discuss the sonnet you’re working on for your Paraphrase and Analysis Paper.
30 Jan.: 1 Henry IV [Before class, also study the genealogy chart inside the front cover of the Norton Shakespeare; in particular, look at the descendants of Edward III, and find Henry IV among those descendants.]

4 Feb.: 1 Henry IV
6 Feb.: 1 Henry IV

11 Feb.: Paraphrase and Analysis Paper due. Be prepared to discuss your sonnet in class.

13 Feb.: The Merchant of Venice
18 Feb.: The Merchant of Venice
20 Feb.: The Merchant of Venice
25 Feb.: Twelfth Night
27 Feb.: Twelfth Night
Spring Break
10 Mar.: Twelfth Night

17 Mar.: Macbeth
19 Mar.: Macbeth
24 Mar.: Macbeth
26 Mar.: Othello
31 Mar.: Othello
2 Apr.: Othello
7 Apr.: The Tempest
9 Apr.: The Tempest
14 Apr.: The Tempest
16 Apr.: Performance Project paper due.
21 Apr.: Performance Projects.
23 Apr.: Performance Projects.
28 Apr.: Final review.

6 May.: FINAL EXAM, 11:30-2:00. Bring a blue book.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the literary, historical, and cultural contexts of Shakespeare’s works.
- Apply the techniques of literary analysis to Shakespeare’s works.
- Use MLA formatting to write papers about literature.

Grading Scale


A grading rubric for written work is available at my web page.