

English 230, sec. 1
Fall 2001
E hour
210 Palmer

Professor Marshall
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Office hrs: M, F 11:30-12:30;
T, Th 1:30-3; W 3-4

Shakespeare's Major Plays

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Shakespeare occupies a position at the center of our literary culture, yet many mysteries surround the man and his work. As we all know, Shakespeare is sometimes suspected of not writing his own plays. Scholars disagree about whether he sought fame, literary excellence, or financial reward, about whether he sought to criticize or to enthrone established society, about whether he declined in skill as he grew older or reached new heights of power, and about many other issues. The greatest mystery of all is Shakespeare's continued relevancy after 400 years, and the question of how an old author is continually made new will be our chief object of inquiry. The course aims to develop your knowledge of Shakespearean drama and to increase your skills in critical analysis, discussion, and writing.

TEXT: William Shakespeare, *The Norton Shakespeare*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

- 15% Participation. This class proceeds more like a play in the Renaissance public theater than a film in today's cinema houses; that is, you are expected to come prepared, to listen carefully, and to register your responses. There will be occasional reading quizzes.
- 20% Film paper. Analyze a videotape version of MSND or AYLI. 4-5 pp. Due 9/14.
- 20% Criticism paper. Summarize and respond to a work of criticism. 5-6 pp. Due 10/12.
- 30% Essay, topics and guidelines to be provided. 7-8 pp. Due 11/19.
- 15% Scene analysis/presentation. Working in small groups, students will closely analyze a scene from *The Tempest*, present it to the class on a specified date, and submit a 2 pp. written account of their analysis on 12/5.

Please refer to the statement of Expectations and Policies of the Department of English for other relevant guidelines.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS: Unless I instruct you otherwise, you are expected to complete your first reading of a play by the first day on which we discuss it. You are also expected to read the introductory essay in the *Norton Shakespeare* for each work. Please bring your text to class.

- 8/22 Introduction
- 8/24 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1595)

- 8/27 *MSND*
- 8/29 *MSND*
- 8/31 *MSND*

9/3 Labor Day holiday
9/5 *As You Like It* (1600)
9/7 *AYLI*

9/10 *AYLI*
9/12 *AYLI*
9/14 *AYLI* FILM PAPER DUE

9/17 *The Comical History of the Merchant of Venice* (1596)
9/19 *Merchant*
9/21 *Merchant*

9/24 *Merchant*
9/26 *Merchant*
9/28 *The Tragedy of King Richard the Second* (1595)

10/1 *R2*
10/3 *R2*
10/5 *R2*

10/8 *The Life of Henry the Fifth* (1599)
10/10 *H5*
10/12 *H5* CRITICISM PAPER DUE

10/15 Fall break
10/17 *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* (1601)
10/19 *Ham*

10/22 *Ham*
10/24 *Ham*
10/26 *Ham*

10/29 *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice* (1603)
10/31 *Oth*
11/2 *Oth*

11/5 *Oth*
11/7 *Oth*
11/9 No class (SAMLA)

11/12 *The Tragedy of King Lear* (1604)
11/14 *Lear*
11/16 *Lear*

11/19 *Lear* ESSAY DUE

11/21 Thanksgiving holiday
11/23 Thanksgiving holiday

11/26 *The Tempest* (1612)

11/28 *Tmp*

11/30 *Tmp*

12/3 *Tmp*

12/5 *Tmp* SCENE ANALYSIS DUE