

English 230  
Fall 2002  
F hour  
208 Palmer

Professor Marshall  
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Office hrs: MWF 11:30-12:30;  
T, Th 1 - 2

### 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:

- 10% Participation. You are expected to come to class prepared, to listen carefully, and to register your responses. There will be occasional reading quizzes.
- 30% Two short (3 page) papers, due 9/13 and 11/15.
- 45% Two longer (5-6 page) papers, due 10/11 and 12/2.
- 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 short (2 page) written account of their analysis on 12/11.

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.

- 8/28 Introduction
- 8/30 no class – View a videotape of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, choosing from several versions on reserve in Burrow library. You can also find copies elsewhere on your own.
  
- 9/2 Labor Day – no class
- 9/4 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1595)
- 9/6 *MSND*
  
- 9/9 *As You Like It* (1600)
- 9/11 *AYLI*
- 9/13 *AYLI* DUE: 3 page paper on *MSND* or *AYLI*
  
- 9/16 no class Unless I inform you otherwise, regular class sessions will be
- 9/18 no class cancelled this week while I am on jury duty. I will be accessible by
- 9/20 no class email and can arrange to meet with students any day after 5 pm.

9/23 *The Comical History of the Merchant of Venice* (1596)  
 9/25 *Merchant*  
 9/27 *Merchant*  
  
 9/30 *Merchant*  
 10/2 *Merchant*  
 10/4 *The Tragedy of King Richard the Second* (1595)  
  
 10/7 *R2*  
 10/9 *R2*  
 10/11 *R2* DUE: 5-6 page paper on *AYLI*, *Merchant*, or *Richard 2*. It must incorporate knowledge of one or more video versions of the play.  
  
 10/14 *The Life of Henry the Fifth* (1599)  
 10/16 *H5*  
 10/18 *H5*  
  
 10/21 no class -- fall break  
 10/23 *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* (1601)  
 10/25 *Ham*  
  
 10/28 *Ham*  
 10/30 *Ham*  
 11/1 *Ham*  
  
 11/4 *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice* (1603)  
 11/6 *Oth*  
 11/8 *Oth*  
  
 11/11 *Oth*  
 11/13 *Oth*  
 11/15 no class DUE: 3 page response to a critical essay, chosen from those on reserve in Burrow library.  
  
 11/18 *The Tragedy of King Lear* (1604)  
 11/20 *Lear*  
 11/22 *Lear*  
  
 11/25 *Lear*  
 11/27 no class -- Thanksgiving  
 11/29 no class -- Thanksgiving  
  
 12/2 *The Tempest* (1612) DUE: 5-6 page essay on *Hamlet*, *Othello*, or *King Lear*. Write on one of the topics provided, or a topic of your choice if I have approved it.  
 12/4 *Tmp*  
 12/6 *Tmp*  
  
 12/9 *Tmp*  
 12/11 *Tmp* DUE: 2 page scene analysis based on group project

