

English 230
Fall 1998
F hour
210 Palmer

Professor C. Marshall
Palmer 316, x3980
Office hours: M, W 3-4
T, Th 1-1:30 & by appt

Shakespeare's Major Plays

Purpose: This course focuses on plays concerned with ideas of love, power, politics, and religion. The course aims to develop your knowledge of Shakespearean drama and to increase your skills of analysis, discussion, and writing. We will use several different approaches to understanding Shakespeare's work. One sees the plays as historical documents that need to be understood within the context in which they were originally written. Another acknowledges how Shakespeare's plays are living documents continually in need of engagement and fresh interpretation. A third emphasizes the importance of close reading and careful attention to dramatic structure, characterization, and language.

Texts: *The Norton Shakespeare*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al., 1997
The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare, ed. Russ McDonald, 1996 (M)

Requirements:

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| 1. | Attendance, participation, in-class work, including a short class presentation involving textual analysis | 15% | |
| 3. | One short essay (3 pages) on a film version of a play | | 15% |
| 4. | Two essays (5-7 pages each) on assigned topics | 45% | |
| 4. | Final exam | 25% | |

Please familiarize yourself with the Expectations and Policies of the Department of English.

Class Schedule:

Unless you have been instructed otherwise, you are expected to read the first three acts of an assigned play by the first day we discuss it, and to complete your reading by the second day of discussion.

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| 8/26 | Introduction |
| 8/28 | <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (1592)
"The Anti-Stratfordians," "What is an Author?," "Comedy" (M 24-28, 153-57) |
| 8/31 | <i>Shrew</i>
"Primogeniture," "Marriage and Money," "Of Children" (M 259-62, 288-89) |
| 9/2 | <i>Shrew</i>
"Performances, Playhouses and Players" (M 40-73) |
| 9/4 | View Taylor-Burton film of <i>Shrew</i> |
| 9/7 | Labor Day recess |

9/9 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1595)
9/11 *Dream*; Forman, "Diary" (M 40-73, 330-31)

9/14 View Joseph Papp videotape of *Dream*
9/16 *Dream*
9/18 First essay (3 pp), on film, due

9/21 *Twelfth Night* (1601)
9/23 *Twelfth Night*
"The Situation of Women," "Patriarchy," (M 251-59)
9/25 *Twelfth Night*
"Homily on Marriage," "Of Domestical Duties," "Conduct Books," "Of Buggery or Sodomy" (M 278-88, 290-93)

9/28 *Twelfth Night*
9/30 *The Merchant of Venice* (1596)
10/2 *Merchant*; "The Social Structure," "The Church," (M 270-73, 309-12)

10/5 *Merchant*
10/7 *Merchant*
10/9 Second essay (5-7 pp) due

10/12 *Richard 2* (1595); "History," "Lambarde's Notes" (M 162-66, 178)
10/14 *Richard 2*
10/16 *Richard 2*

10/19 Fall recess
10/21 *Hamlet* (1600); "Tragedy" (M 157-62)
10/23 *Ham*; "Filmer "Patriarcha" (M 276-78)

10/26 *Ham*; Facsimile (M 97-99)
10/28 *Ham*
10/30 *Ham*; Bohannon, "ShS in the Bush" (handout)

11/2 *King Lear* (1604-5);
"Ideology of Order," "Problem of Authority" (M 312-15, 315-18)
11/4 *Lear*
11/6 *Lear*

11/9 *Lear*; Facsimile (M 96)
11/11 *Lear*
11/13 Third essay (5-7 pp) due

11/16 *Othello* (1603); Cinthio "Hecatommithi," Rymer (M 122-23, 179)
11/18 *Othello*
11/20 *Othello*

11/23 *Othello*
11/25 Thanksgiving recess
11/27 more turkey

11/30 *The Tempest* (1611); "Strachey," "Romance" (M 137-39, 166-69)
12/2 *Tempest*
12/4 *Tempest*

12/7 *Tempest*
12/9 concluding business

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FOR ALL ESSAYS:

You must document all sources you have cited or consulted. Use the MLA system of parenthetical documentation. Remember to cite Shakespeare's text as primary source. Please pledge your papers.

Essay 1
Due 9/18.

Write a 3 page essay on either the Taylor-Burton film of *Shrew* or the Papp production of *Dream*.

Identify and discuss the production's interpretation of some aspect of the play. For instance, you might concentrate on the portrayal of a character (e.g. Katarina) or group of characters (e.g. Fairies), on the development of the relationship between two characters, or on the staging of a particular scene. To support your thesis, discuss how such elements as cutting or reworking of the script, setting, casting, lighting, camera angles, blocking, sound effects, facial expressions, and especially the delivery of lines contribute to the interpretation.

Bibliographic information (modify to reflect your emphasis).

Shakespeare, William. *The Taming of the Shrew*. Dir. Franco Zeffirelli. Perf. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard B.

Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer night's dream*. Dir. James Lapine. Prod. Joseph Papp. Videocassette.