

English 263

Byron Nelson, ENGL 263, Fall 2005

English 263, Lec. 001: CRN #82641

Fall 2005; 10:30-11:20 MWF, G-16 Woodburn

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SHAKESPEARE 1

REQUIRED TEXTS (2):

- Bevington, *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, 5th ed. (Longman Pearson)
- Gurr and Ichikawa, *Staging in Shakespeare's Theatres* (Oxford U P)

READING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

8/22 Introduction—why read Shakespeare?

8/24 *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Act 1 (pp. 78-83 in Bevington)

8/26 *Two Gentlemen*, Act II

8/29 *Two Gentlemen*, Act III

8/31 *Two Gentlemen*, Act IV

9/2 *Two Gentlemen*, Act V; FIRST PAPER DUE

9/5 Labor Day holiday

9/7 Gurr and Ichikawa, 1-20

9/9 CLASS MEETS IN A-V SCREENING ROOM, MAIN LIBRARY: *Midsummer Night's Dream*, I

9/12 Midsummer Night's Dream, II

9/14 Midsummer Night's Dream, III

9/16 Midsummer Night's Dream, IV

9/19 Midsummer Night's Dream, V

9/21 Romeo, I

9/23 Romeo, II (read also Gurr and Ichikawa, 86)

9/26 Romeo, III-IV

9/28 Romeo, V

9/30 CLASS MEETS IN A-V SCREENING ROOM, MAIN LIBRARY

10/3 FIRST EXAMINATION (Two Gentlemen, Midsummer, Romeo)

10/5 As You Like It, I

10/7 As You Like It, II

10/10 As You Like It, III

10/12 As You Like It, IV

10/14 As You Like It, V

10/17 Henry IV, Part I, Act I

10/19 Henry IV, Part I, Act II

10/21 CLASS MEETS TN A-V SCREENING ROOM, MAIN LIBRARY: Henry IV, Part I, Act III

10/24 Henry IV, Part I, Act IV

10/26 Henry IV, Part I, Act V

10/28 Hamlet, Act I; SHORT PAPER DUE

10/31 Hamlet, II read also Gun- and Ichikawa, 121-62 this week and bring this book to class each day

11/2 Hamlet, III

11/4 Hamlet, IV

11/7 Hamlet, V

11/9 Macbeth, I

11/11 CLASS MEETS IN A-V SCREENING ROOM, MAIN LIBRARY: Macbeth, II

11/14 Macbeth, III; PAPER ON HAMLET DUE

11/16 Macbeth, IV

11/18 Macbeth, V

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, 11/19—11/27

11/28 Pericles, I

11/30 Pericles, II

12/2 Pericles, III

12/5 Pericles, IV

12/7 Pericles, V

12/9 Henry VIII, or All Is Well: Act V, Sc. 5 (pp. 963-4 in Bevington)

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11am-1pm

RATIONALE

The course surveys the life and work of William Shakespeare (1564-1616). We will read and discuss eight plays—three comedies, one history, three tragedies and one late romance—and read major portions of a recent book on the theatres and staging practices of Shakespeare's time. We will usually discuss one act of a play per day. The persistent themes of the plays have qualities that make them appear to be universal—youth, love, competition, the relationship of

parents and children, aging, death, community, and the roles of kingship and friendship. In addition, we will discuss Shakespeare's implied attitudes toward governance, urbanism, nature, religion and the roles of fate and chance in human affairs. We will assess Shakespeare's distinctive use of language and discuss his unique ability to imply, through their speech, the inner life of his characters. We'll also note Shakespeare's response to a spectacular act of political terrorism from four hundred years ago, the Gunpowder Plot. There are two required texts: David Bevington's edition of Shakespeare and Gun and Ichikawa's Staging in Shakespeare's Theatre. ALWAYS bring the Bevington edition to class.

POLICIES

Regular attendance is expected, as class participation is a key part of your grade—and, as on the job, attendance will be recorded. Your grade will drop after THREE ABSENCES, and SIX ABSENCES can result in a failure. To make it somewhat easy to remember, I have scheduled a trip to the large screening room on the lower level of the Main Library every third Friday, beginning on Sept. 9. The viewings of various Shakespearean scenes (often there will be multiple stagings of the same scene) are obligatory, and there will be specific questions on the videos in the exams. There will be two exams as well as the final exam, short papers and a longer paper on Hamlet which is due the week before Thanksgiving. There may also be occasional unannounced in-class writing exercises and the spontaneous reading aloud of scenes. Papers and exams are due on the dates listed above; late papers must be turned in but can suffer from a grade reduction. DO NOT send papers as e-mail attachments or leave voice messages, but do feel free to send questions via e-mail. Please feel free to visit during my office hours (8:30 am MWF in my office or 11:30-12:20 in the Main Library, usually in the Periodicals area on the second floor). Make sure that your cell phones are turned off during class.