



Instructor: Rachel Hoag
 Office hours: TBA Colson G07
 Additional hours by appointment

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 T-TH: 1:00-2:15
 Clark 312

Course Description:

This course familiarizes you with a broad spectrum of Shakespeare's works through several methods. We will look at the plays as both historical artifacts and literary works, as well as performative pieces meant to be staged for and experienced by a live audience. Shakespeare's plays were shaped by and in turn shaped the world in which they were produced. This class will concern itself with illuminating the connections between these texts and the world, as well as the resonances these plays have into our contemporary time. We will explore historical issues of religion, gender, nationality, and conflict (among others) and interrogate how Shakespeare confronts these topics. Using this approach, we can examine what Shakespeare means as both a product and producer in his own time, as well as an enduring literary force that still speaks in potent ways to contemporary issues and audiences. Welcome to the world of Shakespeare--a world that, upon further inspection, might not be all that different from our own.

Course Objectives:

The learning objectives for this course stem from the English department's program goals as well as the GEF/GEC objectives it fulfills. After taking this class, students will be able to:

1. Understand and interpret Shakespeare's works within their literary, cultural and historical contexts.
2. Demonstrate the ability to engage critically with Shakespeare's plays as literary texts, identifying genre conventions and thematic developments, analyzing their effects, and grappling with their complexity.
3. Demonstrate a general knowledge of structural aspects of the English language as well as effective writing strategies.

"Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them". - Twelfth Night (Act II, Scene V).

Required Texts:

Coriolanus (Oxford World Classics) ISBN: 9780199535804

Four Great Comedies: The Taming of the Shrew; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Twelfth Night; The Tempest. (Signet Classics) ISBN:9780451527318

Henry IV, Part I (Pelican Shakespeare) ISBN: 9780140714562

The Merchant of Venice (Oxford World Classics) ISBN: 9780199535859

Othello (Pelican Shakespeare) ISBN: 9780140714630

Titus Andronicus (Pelican Shakespeare) ISBN: 9780140714913



*“O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-ey'd monster,
which doth mock
The meat it feeds on.”*
--Iago

Course Grading:

Exams and Quizzes: 30%

Final Paper: 25%

Close Readings: 20%

Annotation and Translation Project: 15%

Homework: 10%

Grading Scale:

A+ 98-100 A 94-97 A- 90-93

B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B- 80-83

C+ 77-79 C 74-76 C- 70-73

D+ 67-69 D 64-66 D- 60-63

F 59-0

Assignments: The following are general synopses of the major assignments for the course. Detailed assignment sheets will be distributed at a later date.

Annotation/Translation Project: In this assignment, students will familiarize themselves with the *Oxford English Dictionary* as a way to annotate and understand Shakespeare's text. Using a speech from *Titus Andronicus*, students will gloss the text and also craft their own modernization of the speech. **Due Date:** Thursday, September 15.

Close Readings: Each student will be responsible for composing two close readings throughout the semester. In a three-page mini-essay, students will select and explore the textual implications of a passage from a play. **Due Date:** CR1 before September 27, CR2 before November 15.

Final Paper: For the final paper, students will consider how a contemporary film version of one of our plays adapts and modernizes Shakespeare. This 5-6 page paper will look closely at how Shakespeare's themes, characters and voice get translated from page to screen. **Due date:** TBA.

Homework: Students will occasionally have to complete short homework assignments. Examples include (but are not limited to) brainstorming discussion questions, answering discussion questions, posting to class discussion boards, and responding to classmates' work. Homework should be typed and printed out prior to class. Handwritten and/or e-mailed assignments are generally not accepted.

Exams/Quizzes: This class will include two longer exams as well as periodic shorter quizzes to check for reading and comprehension. Exams and quizzes must be taken during their assigned period and cannot be made up except in the case of truly extenuating circumstances arranged and documented through the Office of Student Life. If an emergency comes up, the Office of Student Life can be reached at (304-293-5611), and you should call them immediately for assistance.

Course policies:

Attendance: Your active participation is the lifeblood of this course. As such, your attendance is required. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to talk to the instructor after class and make sure you were not counted absent. Personal situations and required university events may, on a rare occasion, make it impossible for you to be in class. For these reasons you are allowed 2 absences. For each additional absence, students' final grades may be lowered by a third of a grade (A to an A-, B to B-, etc.)

Students who miss 5 classes will fail the course. Exceptions to this policy are rare. If a situation arises in which you anticipate missing a lot of class, please contact the Office of Student Life (304-293-5611), which will contact your professors and help you work through any issues.

Lateness: Class will start on time each day. Students are expected to be there, prepared to begin when I am. If you accumulate more than 3 tardies you will be docked an absence. If you are more than 15 minutes late for class you will be marked absent for the day.

Cheating/Plagiarism: The WVU academic community and our classroom community values and assumes your honesty. Any violations of academic honesty may result in the failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or other penalty at the discretion of the instructor. Students are expected to be familiar with the sections on Academic Honesty in the University Student Conduct Code, available at:

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/#academicintegritytext>

Computers and Cell Phones: You are welcome to bring laptop computers and tablets that support your educational endeavors into the classroom (ie: notetaking and accessing course materials). If, at any time, these devices become a distraction to me or other members of the class you will be asked to put them away. All mobile phones must be turned off or set to a silent

mode and stored in a bag or purse during class. If you must take a phone call due to an emergency please quietly excuse yourself from the room.

Office Hours and E-mail: My office hours are completely open to you, and I am also available by appointment in addition to those hours. Please feel free to e-mail anytime but note two things: 1. I do not look at writing via email, if you would like to discuss a specific piece you are working on, come see me. 2. I make every effort to respond to student e-mails promptly (within 24 hours), but I generally do not check e-mail after 5 p.m. E-mails received in the evenings will receive a response sometime the next business day, and weekend e-mails will be returned on Monday.

Inclusivity/Students with Disabilities: The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. The phone number is 304-293-6700 and e-mail is access2@mail.wvu.edu. Access the website at <http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu>.

Weather: In the event of severe weather, use your judgment (and save those absences) regarding travel to campus. If you cannot make it due to weather conditions, contact me as soon as possible. Similarly, if I am forced to cancel class because of severe weather, I will notify you via your mix e-mail account. As a hale and hearty northerner, I am rarely scared off by a few snowflakes, so expect these cancellations only in actual instances of severe weather.

Writing Studio: The Eberly Writing Studio is a resource that can support you in all aspects of the writing process. It is located in G02 Colson Hall. I encourage students to visit the studio and work with a consultant on any of the writing assignments for this class. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the studio or through their online scheduler on their website.

Student Expectations:

Reading: It should go without saying that a course on Shakespeare will be reading-intensive. Expect to devote time on most days to reading and preparing for the next class period. While some days the reading might seem short (with regard to total pages), keep in mind that the content might require considerable care and attention in order to adequately prepare for our upcoming discussions.

Participation/classroom engagement: As university students and members of the classroom community, students are expected to have completed all of that day's readings and writing assignments prior to class. Please bring copies of the text, your notes, and any assigned writing to class so that you can be actively involved in classroom discussions. Attendance alone is not sufficient to succeed--students must be active, engaged members of the classroom community. Discussion intimidates some people, but these conversations are ways to "try out" ideas, engage with others' points of view, and challenge the way texts are read. I will monitor your

participation and keep it mind as a possible factor to bump your final grade up or down by a third of a grade (ie: B to B-) at the end of the term.

Timeliness of Work: In a nutshell, late work is unacceptable and will not be accepted. Students are expected to turn in assignments on time and in the format specified in the assignment. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted in lieu of hard copies. Close readings cannot be submitted late as they are a reflection of your preparedness for that day's class.

Classroom Courtesy: Our classroom will be one of mutual respect where even though we may possess (and encourage) differing opinions, those views are expressed in appropriate, constructive ways. This courtesy extends to course communication, where students and the instructor are expected to communicate in a professional manner. This means e-mail communications should be formatted professionally (including greeting, complete sentences, and a closing with your name). We will, from time to time, be working with material that contains explicit content and language. Such content can present a challenge to readers and to class discussion. Your reactions to and analysis of such material are welcomed as part of a robust, classroom-appropriate conversation.



**Shakespeare--the nearest thing
in incarnation to the eye of
God.
--Sir Laurence Olivier**

**Regarding
Shakespeare**



**“He was the man who of all
modern, and perhaps ancient
poets, had the largest and most
comprehensive soul.” --Dryden**

Course Schedule: This schedule is subject to change as we collaboratively determine some of the class' focus and pace. Any changes will be announced in class and posted to the course's site on e-campus.

Day	Date	Topic	Due
TH	8/18	Intro to Shakespeare and Elizabethan Theater	
T	8/23	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	
TH	8/25	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	
T	8/30	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	
TH	9/1	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	
T	9/6	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	
TH	9/8	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	
T	9/13	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	
TH	9/15	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Annotation/Translation
T	9/20	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	
TH	9/22	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	
T	9/27	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Last day for CR1
TH	9/29	Exam 1	
T	10/4	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i>	Midterm Week
TH	10/6	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i>	
T	10/11	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i>	
TH	10/13	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i>	
T	10/18	<i>Othello</i>	
TH	10/20	<i>Othello</i>	
T	10/25	<i>Othello</i>	
TH	10/27	<i>Othello</i>	
T	11/1	<i>Coriolanus</i>	
TH	11/3	<i>Coriolanus</i>	

T	11/8	No Class--Election Day	
TH	11/10	<i>Coriolanus</i>	
T	11/15	<i>Coriolanus</i>	Last day for CR2
TH	11/17	Exam 2	
T	11/22	Thanksgiving Break	
TH	11/24	Thanksgiving Break	
T	11/29	<i>The Tempest</i>	
TH	12/1	<i>The Tempest</i>	
T	12/6	<i>The Tempest</i> /Course wrap-up	
W	12/14	Final Exam Time (TBA if needed) 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	

