

SURVEY OF SHAKESPEAREAN LITERATURE
Thelma English, Instructor
Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. This college preparatory course is designed to introduce the student to the life and plays of William Shakespeare in an interactive way. Major works will be studied to represent Comedy, Comedy-tragedy, and Tragedy. Plays include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Twelfth Night*. Plays will be read for plot, character, and historical context familiarity. This class utilizes Folger editions for each play.
2. This is a dramatic, fun class! Most of the class time is filled with dramatic readings, interspersed with commentary. Audio includes Thelma's introductions to each play, each act, and each scene of each play. Audio also includes student read alouds of each play. In the audio recorded classroom, parts are chosen and students take turns reading every line from each play. Audio quality is good but the listener is listening to others reading all play parts.
3. This audio is useful for the play introductions and for the commentary made by Thelma as students read through their parts. Thelma explains each new scene to assist students in understanding. This audio is from a live classroom filled with 13 students. As such, it includes some interruptions and student questions. The class often stops to address and answer questions in the study guides. Although listening to others is not as exciting as reading parts on one's own, the audio is excellent for those wishing to listen through a play and understand the play.

CLASS FORMAT

1. Classes are two hours per week. Students take a 10-minute break in between each one-hour audio.
2. Writing assignments will be divided into three categories; grades 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12.
3. Students will prepare a biography as a mid-year project. The Final exam is a take-home project. Occasional quizzes will assess lecture retention.
4. Parents are expected to monitor student progress. Most students benefit from the parent proofing their work before it is turned in, and examining it when it is returned.
5. It is also useful for home educators who would like to host a Shakespeare class of their own. By listening to Thelma teach the plays, a parent can re-teach the plays in a small class setting. Parents can use the study guides and notes to facilitate their own class by having the students listen to Thelma's play introductions and then have their own students read the parts aloud!

COURSE TEXTS

Required: New Folger editions of the seven plays listed above. Books are available through Exodus Provisions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will become *proficient* in the plots, themes, and characters of the seven plays studied.
2. The student will attain a working knowledge of Shakespeare's language.
3. The student will gain an understanding of Jacobean and Elizabethan England in the aftermath of the Renaissance and Reformation: the threshold of our modern world.

GRADING

1. I will grade following the standard scale (**A+** 96-100, **A** 93-95; **A-** 90-92; **B+** 86-89; **B** 83-85; **B-** 80-82, **C+** 76-79 and so on).

2. **One** paper may be turned in up to three days late without penalty. The second late paper loses one full grade the day after it is due, and one letter grade each three days thereafter. Mrs. English encourages all instructors to adhere to this requirement.
3. Q-1: Much Ado guide 40%, As You Like It Quiz 40%, Attendance & Participation 20%
4. Q-2: Merchant of Venice guide 40%, Take-home Exam 40%, Attendance & Participation 20%
5. Q-3: Antony & Cleopatra Quiz 30%, Twelfth Night paper 50%, Attendance & Participation 20%
6. Q-4: Macbeth guide 40%, Take-home Final Exam 40%, Attendance & Participation 20%