

Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. This college preparatory course is designed to introduce the student to the life, poetry, and plays of William Shakespeare in an interactive way. Major works will be studied in to represent Comedy, Comedy-tragedy, Tragedy, and the Late Romances. Plays include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Tempest*. Plays will be read for plot, character, and historical context familiarity. The Sonnets will be introduced. Students will write one sonnet, to be included in a class publication.
2. Students are expected to have access to email. A class email loop will serve as an avenue for further question and answer sessions. Students without email should connect by phone with a student who does.
3. This is a dramatic, fun class! Much of the class time is filled with dramatic readings, interspersed with commentary. Writing includes two exams, multiple quizzes, two short guides, and several short papers.
4. Local theater productions will be included as optional activities as they become available.

CLASS FORMAT

1. **Classes 11:00 am-1:10 pm** at Basic Skills; class meets Mondays. One 20-minute break is taken at the one-hour mark, and may be used as a lunch break.
2. Students will occasionally take notes from class lectures utilizing structured notes and take part in oral discussions critiquing read-aloud selections. Students bring a 3-ring 2" notebook and pen/pencil to class. Access to an encyclopedia, grammar handbook, and dictionary is assumed (paper or electronic). Occasional Internet or library access required.
3. Some historical and cultural information will be studied to provide the student with an understanding of the Renaissance and Reformation, and their effects on Elizabethan life and culture. Class studies will explore works that express this best, utilizing historical information, study guides, read-aloud sessions (each student takes a part), and video presentations. Some relative books, short works, articles, and outlines will be introduced as take home reading selections.
4. Writing assignments will be divided into three categories; grades 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12.
5. A Mid-term and a Final will be administered as take-home, or in class; weekly quizzes will assess at-home reading, and lecture retention.
6. Students are expected to have access to email. A class email loop will serve as an avenue for further question and answer sessions. Students without email should connect by phone with a student who does.
7. The thelmaslibrary web site will contain an active page for this class; Password: TBA; Username: TBA. The site is used for study guides, structured notes, and other class materials.

COURSE TEXTS

Required: New Folger editions (and one Dover edition) of the plays. Book and materials fee is \$55. The booklist is available for those who own some of the texts. Students who purchase their own texts will pay a \$15 materials fee.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will become *proficient* in the plots, themes, and characters of the eight plays studied.
2. The student will become *familiar* with the sonnets.
3. The student will attain a working knowledge of Shakespeare's language.
4. The student will memorize 6 to 12 lines from at least four plays.
5. 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.

6. Students will learn to do research and cite sources accurately and honestly. A writing sample will be prepared the first day of class. Students are expected to utilize multiple sources and practice intellectual integrity when writing papers. Evidence of plagiarism will place a student on academic probation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance of all day classes is critical. Please inform the instructor if it is necessary for you to miss a class. CDs are available *upon request* at a cost of \$4.
2. All **seniors** will present a research project or paper on an approved topic. Papers should be five to eight pages, double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font. Papers and projects will be presented in class; they should include visuals. Presentation of research should take 7 – 15 minutes. **Choose topic and advise instructor by Nov. 2005.** Projects will be presented in class during April and May, 2005. Topics for projects and papers include, but are not limited to:
 - A booklet of sonnets (Six sonnets, written by the student, with a cover and illustrations)
 - Copies will be made for class members upon request.
 - Research the Authorship Controversy
 - Present a 7 –12 minute scene from a favorite play
 - Research Stage Costuming
 - Research Actors and Theaters of Shakespeare's time
 - Research the reign of King James or Queen Elizabeth
 - Create a Shakespeare game (e.g., board, live-play, or card game)

GRADING

Attendance and class participation 30%

Study Guides/Projects 35%

Sonnet 5%

Quizzes, Mid-Term and Final 30%

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. Assignments **may not** be e-mailed to the instructor for printing and are due at the beginning of class the day they are due. Postal stamp dates will be accepted as turn-in dates. Class begins on time whether you are present or not.
3. Four tardies equal one letter grade loss.
4. Extra credit is available for film reviews or cultural reports not included in assignments.