

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024**

**EN2390(A3): Introduction to Shakespeare – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Anna Lapointe	<b>PHONE:</b>	780-539-2992
<b>OFFICE:</b>	C420	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	alapointe@nwpolytech.ca
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Wednesday 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment		

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** Students will read various plays representing the range of Shakespeare's work.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** Six credits of Junior English

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** All texts will be digital and available on MyClass. Students are welcome to use print copies if they wish for ease of use, but none have been ordered in the bookstore. (As long as your copy includes act, scene, line information, you should be fine.)

- *Richard III*
- *Hamlet*
- *Romeo & Juliet*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*
- plus a play to be chosen by the class

**DELIVERY MODE:** On-Campus

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate core ideas about the cultural context in which Shakespeare wrote
- Perform close readings of passages of specific plays
- Identify distinctive features of Elizabethan theatre
- Make connections between plays in terms of thematic and artistic patterns

- Present knowledge, both verbally and in writing, of the plays studied in terms of content and comprehension, literary patterns, and significance

### TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

### EVALUATIONS:

Participation (attendance and engagement in class discussions)	10%
Reflection papers (short papers on specific plays) (2 x 7.5%)	15%
Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	25%
Exam	30%

### GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

### Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Readings must be completed **before** the class in which they are taken up. Please ensure you have the day's text available to you in class (either on paper or electronically). This schedule is subject to change.

Alterations to the schedule will be posted on MyClass.

Jan 8 – introduction to the class

Jan 10 – William Shakespeare and the Elizabethan world  
 Jan 15 – Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre  
 Jan 17 – Richard III  
 Jan 22 – Richard III  
 Jan 24 – Richard III  
 Jan 29 – essay writing instruction  
 Jan 31 – Much Ado About Nothing  
 Feb 5 – Much Ado About Nothing  
 Feb 7 – Much Ado About Nothing  
 Feb 12 – flex class; **reflection paper 1 due**  
 Feb 14 – intro to Hamlet  
**Week of Feb 19: No Classes (Reading Week)**  
 Feb 26 – Hamlet; **essay 1 due**  
 Feb 28 – Hamlet  
 Mar 4 – Hamlet  
 Mar 6 – Hamlet  
 Mar 11 – Hamlet  
 Mar 13 – Essay writing instruction  
 Mar 18 – Romeo & Juliet  
 Mar 20 – Romeo & Juliet  
 Mar 25 – Romeo & Juliet  
 Mar 27 – Romeo & Juliet; **reflection paper 2 due**  
 Apr 1 – play chosen by class; last day to withdraw  
 Apr 3 – play chosen by class  
 Apr 8 – play chosen by class; **essay 2 due**  
 Apr 10 – flex class  
 Apr 15 – Review for final exam; exam outline will be given on this date

Final exam date TBA. Please ensure that you are available for the entire exam period.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class during class times. Attending class and engaging with classmates, discussion topics, and related activities is worth 10% of your final grade. Each class missed to an unexcused absence will result in a significant deduction to the participation grade.
  - If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness or family crisis), **let the instructor know by e-mail**. In your e-mail, please indicate your **course number and section**. Please **send a new e-mail for each class missed** for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days

will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.

- **Participation & Engagement:** You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up, so ask!
  - In order to participate effectively, **you should have the day's reading completed before class begins.** This will allow you to comment, answer questions, and ask questions of your own.
  - In order to learn about academic writing and to develop better writing skills, it's imperative that you do your own writing, without using Chat-GPT or any other AI or language bot. Assignments found to have been created using AI/bots will not be graded. Whether students are permitted to rewrite/resubmit these assignments is at the instructor's discretion. AI-written papers may be subject to further penalties under the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy. Additional penalties may also be applied to your participation grade.
  - In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked elsewhere in this outline) may be applied.
- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to myClass, and further information can be obtained from classmates. If, **after** you have reviewed the class materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to assist you.

### STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## Additional Information:

- **Assignment Submission:** Assignments are due at 4:00pm Alberta time on the due date. At 4:01pm, they become late, so you might as well take a few hours and polish your work to offset the penalty.
  - Assignments must be submitted via myClass. Assignments must be typed, in pdf format, and double-spaced. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted. If myClass will not accept the assignment, check whether it meets all formatting requirements.
- **Late Papers:** Late papers are penalized at the rate of 1% per day, to a maximum deduction of 15%. Late papers will be accepted until Monday, April 15, 2024, at 4:00pm Alberta time. Starting at 4:01pm on that day, no more late assignments will be accepted, and the missing assignments will receive grades of 0%.
- **Extensions: Students must contact the instructor directly regarding extensions.** I grant extensions for the following reasons: technological failure (may be used only once), sick children/family crisis, illness or injury of student, alien abduction (documentation required). Extensions are not open-ended; rather, we will agree on a new deadline, after which late penalties apply.
  - **Extensions are not given because of workload.** Due dates across classes tend to come in clusters. Plan ahead and be prepared to deal with the schedule.
- **Office Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline.
  - You don't need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.
  - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don't feel you're imposing.
  - Office hours are cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I'll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I'm better.
  - If you make an appointment to meet with me outside of regular office hours, please actually attend that meeting, or notify me that you won't be able to make it.
- **Pre-Assessments:** Students often request that I "look over" an assignment and offer feedback before the assignment is due. I regret that I cannot do this, simply because of the time commitment involved, and the number of students I teach.
  - However, I am always pleased to review your thesis statement, and even to review several drafts of it. Please send your thesis statement for feedback by email, pasted into the body of the e-mail.
  - Thesis statements are not reviewed in person, because I need time to consider and give you the best feedback I can. E-mail them to me for best results!
- **Preferred Names & Pronouns:** At the course's outset, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments, as well as on your Zoom. (If your

preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.)

- If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns.
- All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.
- **Crisis Management:** I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human, and entropy affects us all: crises happen. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.
- **Important Note:** How you do in the class has no effect on how much I like and respect you. If you submit an assignment late, I will not be ashamed of you or look on you with disgust. If your work is imperfect, it's a sign that there are things you need to learn/I need to help you with; it is not a sign that you are a bad, lazy, or unworthy person.