

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMERCE

COURSE: English 2390 (3): Shakespeare Fall 1999

INSTRUCTOR: G. Hanna, Office C419
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CREDIT: 3(3-0) UT (3)

PREREQUISITE: English 1010 or its equivalent:
 six credits of first-year English.

REQUIRED TEXTS INCLUDE 7 PLAYS.

- Subject to individual preference and availability of texts, students should either
 - Purchase from the GPRC Bookstore The Complete Works of Shakespeare Updated 4th edition. Ed. David Bevington. Don Mills, Ontario: Addison Wesley Longman, 1997.
 - Buy the recommended individual scholarly editions listed below.
 - Alternatively, **consult your instructor** if you wish to use another Complete Works or different individual editions of the various plays.
 - **RECOMMENDED GRAMMAR TEXT:** Dawn Rodrigues and Myron C. Tuman. Writing Essentials. 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 1999.

While not a required text, the Norton Pocket Grammar Guide provides access to the following:

- **Quick-Reference Coverage of Writing Online.**
- The EN 2390 / 3380 Course Page, contains class announcements, course policies, assignments, recommended reading, Study Guides, and other course materials, including Web links.
- A Discussion Forum allows students to take part in virtual classroom discussions, share ideas, initiate or join threaded discussions and brainstorm about Shakespeare's plays.

FALL TERM 1999:

We shall closely examine **seven plays** in the order indicated:

1. Richard III. Ed. Mark Eccles (Signet).
2. Macbeth. Ed. Nicholas Brooke (Oxford).
3. The Merchant of Venice. Ed. Jay L. Halio (Oxford).
4. Much Ado About Nothing. Ed. Sheldon P. Zitner (Oxford).
5. Anthony and Cleopatra. Ed. Michael Neil (Oxford).
6. Measure for Measure. Ed. N.W. Bawcutt (Oxford).
7. The Winter's Tale. Ed. Frank Kermode (Signet).

Whenever appropriate, **background readings and directed Shakespeare film studies** will also be assigned.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 2390 examines a selection of seven plays by the most celebrated English dramatist and poet. The plays to be covered include histories, comedies, and tragedies from the early to the late periods of Shakespeare's career; aside from these representative dramas, reference will also be made to a number of Shakespeare's other plays and poems. Some time will be spent exploring the political, social, cultural, and historical background of Elizabethan England, but the main emphasis will be on a close textual reading of the plays' poetic language and dramatic structure.

The lectures and seminar discussions will focus primarily on textual analysis. Other matters to be discussed include the following: the Renaissance; the distinctive features of the Elizabethan theatre and the nature of the leading acting companies; different acting styles; biographical data on the life of Shakespeare; an overview of critical approaches to Shakespeare; the Elizabethan concept of history; the mythology of kingship; characteristics of Elizabethan tragedy and comedy; courtly love and the Petrarchan convention; the pastoral tradition; and so on.

COURSE TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

1st Assignment: 1500-word essay 10%
 Due Date: (Wednesday), October 6
 Weighting: 10% of the course grade.

Two **2000-word essays**, each worth 20%

- **2nd Assignment: 2000-word essay** 20%
 Due Date: (Wednesday), November 10

- * **3rd Assignment: 2000-word essay** 20%
Due Date: (Wednesday), December 8

One oral presentation on a set topic 10%

Group exercises and/or oral participation throughout the seminar. 10%

A 3-hour **Final Exam**, to be scheduled during the Exam Period, December 13-21. 30%

ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS - BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

1. All essays must be **typed**.
2. **Essays are due on the dates indicated.**
 - Students who submit essays after the deadline will usually be penalized at the rate of half a stanine per day.
 - However, any student experiencing difficulty meeting an essay deadline should contact the instructor to determine if there are reasonable grounds for granting an **extension**.
 - Essays submitted more than one week late will not normally be accepted.
3. Extensions are **always** granted in cases of sickness, providing the student can produce a note from a doctor.
4. **Rewrites are allowed on all essay assignments.** Paper clip the graded essay (showing the original grade and the instructor's comments) to the back of the rewritten paper and follow other instructions as provided.

GRADES:

All grades will be expressed in stanine according to the following scale:

STANINE	PERCENTAGE EQUIVALENT	
9	90-100	EXCELLENT:
8	80-89	FIRST CLASS STANDING
7	72-79	GOOD:
6	65-71	SECOND CLASS STANDING
5	57-64	AVERAGE OR SATISFACTORY
4	50-56	PASS

3	45-49	FAIL
2	26-44	
1	0-25	

REQUIRED READING:

- Keep up with the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss the plays fully in class.
- Do not show up for class without having read previously assigned material.

INDIVIDUAL CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:

Individual work with the instructor on specific compositions is necessary and expected.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE:

Excessive absenteeism - defined as more than two unexcused absences per term - may adversely affect your grade.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARISM:

All students are expected to read and be familiar with the GPRC policy on plagiarism, as defined in the 1999-2000 college Calendar, pp. 27-28.

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE FALL TERM,
1999-2000 ACADEMIC YEAR:
Sept. 8 – Dec. 8, 1999 [14 classes]**

- Sept. 8** Course Outline
Main Requirements and Assignments.
- Shakespeare, the Man and His Time: Historical Overview
Elizabethan Period.
Jacobean Era.
- An Introduction to Shakespeare's **History Plays.**
Reinventing Shakespeare[s].
Richard III: The Villain as Hero.
- Sept. 15** Shakespeare's First Tetralogy:
Tudor Propaganda or an Anatomy of Elizabethan Power Politics?
Irony, Melodrama and Diabolical Humour
Richard III on Stage and Screen
Al Pacino's Looking for Richard.
- Sept. 22** Tragedy and Macbeth.
Richard of Gloucester and Macbeth as Evil Protagonists.
Macbeth on Stage and Screen.
- Sept. 29** Poetry and the Catharsis of Tragedy in Macbeth.
Comic Relief?
Role of the Supernatural
Macbeth as one of Shakespeare's four great tragedies.
- Oct. 6** The Merchant of Venice and Anti-Semitism.
Shylock as an Outsider.
Elizabethan Drama and Stagecraft: The Globe Theatre
The Merchant of Venice on Stage and Screen.

1st EN 2390 Assignment: 1500-word essay
Due Date: (Wednesday), **October 6**
Weighting: 10% of the course grade.

Long Weekend: October 9-10-11
College Closed Thanksgiving Day (Monday), Oct. 11

- Oct. 13 The Merchant of Venice Contd.
 Venice and Belmont
- Oct. 20 Much Ado About Nothing: Beatrice and Benedick as Lovers
 Elements of Shakespeare's Middle or Mature Comedies
- Oct. 27 Much Ado About Nothing Contd.
- Nov. 3 Anthony and Cleopatra: Anatomy of Power Politics?
 Shakespeare's Roman plays
 The protagonists as Tragic Lovers
- Nov. 10 Anthony and Cleopatra on Stage and Screen

- **2nd EN 2390 Assignment: 2000-word essay**
 Due Date: (Wednesday), November 10
 Weighting: 20% of course grade.

Long Weekend: November 11-12-13-14
College Closed Remembrance Day (Thursday), Nov. 11

- Nov. 17 Measure for Measure as a Problem Play:
 What's problematic about the play's gender politics?
- Nov. 24 Measure for Measure Contd.
- Dec. 1 The Winter's Tale as a Late Romance: *Mirabile Dictu*
 Jacobean Theatre and Shakespeare's Stagecraft.
- Dec. 8 The Winter's Tale Contd.

3rd EN 2390 Assignment: 2000-word essay
 Due Date: (Wednesday), December 8
 Weighting: 20% of course grade.

END OF FALL TERM SHAKESPEARE SEMINARS.

Review of EN 2390
Preparation for 3-hour Final Exam,
to be scheduled during Exam Period, Dec. 13-21

Exam Weighting = 30% of course.

General Shakespeare Links
(1998-99 EN 1010 Student project)

The Life and Times of Mr. William Shakespeare
http://www.gprc.ab.ca/courses_and_programs/en1010/shakespeare/

**An Annotated List of
OTHER SHAKESPEARE RESOURCES:**

The Shakespeare Classroom.
www.jetlink.net/~massij/shakes/

J. Massi's comprehensive Shakespeare site includes useful study questions, Shakespeare filmography, and a wealth of related Shakespeare links.

Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet
daphne.palomar.edu/shakespeare/

This highly rated site is blessed with many useful Shakespeare resources such as data on the Bard's life and times, his complete works, an interactive Shakespeare quiz, and much more.

Shakespeare Reference Sites
www.pixi.com/~pchs/shakes/ref2.htm

As its name implies, this quick-loading page provides a short list of the most popular Shakespeare sites.

VMI's Shakespeare & Renaissance Home Page
www.vmi.edu/~english/VM!ShakewithByrd.html

To the accompaniment of Elizabethan music, this page provides a comprehensive list of the best Shakespeare sites, providing quick access to Shakespeare search engines, Globe Theatre resources, and updates on annual Shakespeare festivals.

Shakespeare and the Globe
www.reading.ac.uk/80/globe/

This site provides access to London's reconstructed Globe Theatre, historical information on the Globe, past and present, and much other useful material, including general Shakespeare links and access to the resources of the International Shakespeare Centre.

The Works of the Bard
www.gh.es.usyd.edu.au/~matty/Shakespeare/

This site provides e-text versions of Shakespeare's complete works, with the five acts of each play divided into scenes, each accessible separately for greater convenience.

General Advice on How to Watch a Shakespearean Film
www.jetlink.net/~masslj/shakes/films/filmgen.htm

As its title suggests, this page provides useful tips on how to view film versions of Shakespeare's plays critically.

On Screen: The plays in the cinema and on t.v.
www.itz.uni-koeln.de/phil-fax/englisch/shakespeare/shaknet/screen.html

This page lists many useful resources on Shakespeare in performance on television or in the cinema.