

**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION**

**Grande Prairie Regional College**

**EN 2390 A2 (Introduction to Shakespeare).  
Half Year 45 hours / 3 credits (3-0-0) UT**

**2005-06 Academic Year  
Fall Term 2005**

- EN 2390 (Introduction to Shakespeare) and EN 3390 (Studies in Shakespeare) are two 3-credit "companion" courses; students can take one or both courses (in either order).
- Students who have previously taken the full year 6-credit Shakespeare course EN 3380 may NOT take EN 2390 and/or EN 3390 for credit.
- Three contact hours are required per week.
- EN 2390 (Introduction to Shakespeare) meets every Wednesday evening, from 6-8:50 p.m.

**INSTRUCTOR:** George Hanna

**OFFICE:** C419

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

- Office hours are as posted.
- If you have classes during my regular office hours, contact me to set up an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

**PHONE NUMBER:** (780) 539-2090

**E-MAIL:** [hanna@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:hanna@gprc.ab.ca)

**DELIVERY MODE:** Lecture / Class Participation and Discussion / Oral Presentations / Web-Based Learning Materials.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** EN 1000, EN 1010 or an equivalent six credits of first-year English.

**EN 2390 READING LIST  
Fall 2005**

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>The Merchant of Venice.</u> | September 14-21        |
| 2. <u>Much Ado About Nothing.</u> | Sept. 28-October 5     |
| 3. <u>Henry IV, First Part.</u>   | October 12-19          |
| 4. <u>Henry IV, Second Part</u>   | October 26-November 2  |
| 5. <u>Hamlet.</u>                 | November 9-16-23       |
| 6. <u>Macbeth.</u>                | November 30-December 7 |

- Subject to time constraints, we may cover up to three additional plays.
- Textbook: David Bevington, ed. The Complete Works of Shakespeare, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Toronto: Pearson, 2004.  
**ISBN: 0-321-09333-X**
- All these plays are available in Bevington's Longman edition.
- If you already own a different edition of Shakespeare's Complete Works or individual editions of the plays, your text[s] *may* be suitable for this course. A good edition should contain an effective introduction, adequate textual notes, and a reliable text.
- If in doubt, consult the instructor.

### **BRIEF CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

**A reading of [up to] nine plays, representing the full range of Shakespeare's work.**

### **LONGER COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This term, English 2390 examines a selection of 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.

EN 2390 considers both traditional and newer, more controversial scholarly approaches to Shakespeare. 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.

### **Shakespeare in Performance:**

The course also incorporates performance-based criticism, with due consideration given to Shakespeare productions on the stage, cinema and television.

### **Evaluation:**

Take-Home Midterm Test  
Weighting: **10%** of the course grade.  
Due October 12, 2005

### 1<sup>st</sup> Major Essay

Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.

2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)

Due Date: October 26, 2005

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Essay

Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.

2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)

Due Date: November 23, 2005

Oral Presentation: **20%** [in pairs or groups. according to interest]

**Deadline(s):** Negotiable, depending on the number of students and assigned topics.

Oral Participation: **10%**

## 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 are normally penalized at the rate of one Alpha letter grade per calendar 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 may not be accepted.
3. Extensions are *always* granted in cases of sickness, providing the student can produce a note from a doctor.
4. *Subject to time constraints*, 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.

## Alpha Grading System

### GRADES

Grande Prairie Regional College uses the alpha grading system and the following approved letter codes for all programs and courses offered by the College. All final grades will be reported to the Registrar's Office using alpha grades. Alpha grades will be converted to four-point equivalence for the calculation of grade point averages.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalence	Descriptor	Conversion of Percentage to Alpha Grade	Conversion of Alpha Grade to mark out of 10
			* Guideline only. * Used for assigning marks on tests, essays, or other course requirements.	
A+	4.0	Excellent	A+ = 90-100%	A+ = 9-10
A	4.0		A = 85-89	A = 8.5-8.9
A-	3.7	First Class Standing	A- = 80-84	A = 8-8.4
B+	3.3		B+ = 76-79	B+ = 7.6-7.9
B	3.0	Good	B = 73-75	B = 7.3-7.5
B-	2.7		B- = 70-72	B- = 7-7.2
C+	2.3	Satisfactory	C+ = 67-69	C+ = 6.7-6.9
C	2.0		C = 64-66	C = 6.4-6.6
C-	1.7		C- = 60-63	C- = 6-6.3
D+	1.3	Poor	D+ = 55-59	D+ = 5.5-5.9
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	D = 50-54	D = 5-5.4
F	0.0	Failure	0 = 0-49	F = 0-4.9

The following letter grades may also be used:

- A** Audit; no credit given and not calculated into the grade point average
- W** Withdrawal with permission; not calculated in Grade Point Average (GPA)
- WF** Withdrawal after the deadline; carries a weight of "F"
- CR** Credit; indicates a passing grade; used in some programs and courses
- IN** Incomplete; indicates that course requirements are not complete. This grade permits a one-month extension to complete course requirements. The grade of "IN" must be cleared within the one month period. The deadlines for clearing grades of "IN" are listed in the Academic Schedule.

### MINIMAL PASS

A grade of D will be considered a minimum passing grade and will normally meet the prerequisite requirements for the next level of study. Exceptions to this will be clearly stated in prerequisite requirements in the course description or in program progression criteria.

**Other post secondary institutions may not consider grades of D sufficient to award transfer credit.**

Currently, the University of Alberta will not accept for transfer courses completed with grades of "D" or "D+". Some post secondary institutions, for example, the University of Calgary, may accept grades of "D" for transfer but may consider that the student is insufficiently prepared for courses in the next level of study.

**REQUIRED READING:**

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

**ESSAY REWRITES**

2005-06 Academic Year

English 2390

G. Hanna:

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. At the instructor's discretion, students who misunderstood the essay question, have serious writing problems, performed poorly due to extenuating circumstances, or simply wish to improve their grade on an assignment will be allowed to rewrite up to two papers.

Keep in mind, however, that the instructor's time constraints, along with pressure from the Registrar's office to submit students' final grades, *might preclude any opportunity for rewriting the last essay assignment.*

Normally, the instructor will **NOT** accept rewrites submitted after the last scheduled class of the current academic year.

2. Keep the original marked copy of your essay with your instructor's comments; paper clip the original marked version to the back of your rewrite. Otherwise, rewrites will NOT be accepted.
3. While editing, revising, or restructuring your work, do not change any of your words, sentences, or ideas directly on the original marked copy.
4. If you wish to do so, jot down possible alterations in pencil or red ink.
5. Otherwise, make editorial changes on an *unmarked* copy of the paper as saved on a disk or on your hard drive.

6. To correct errors and avoid making new ones, refer to the problem areas indicated on the editor's checklist provided by your instructor; also take into consideration comments and suggestions found in the margins or summary statement on the first version already marked by your instructor.
7. The rewrite will be graded as a new assignment. Through careful editing and revision, MOST students should be able to upgrade their original mark by at least one or two letter grades. In such cases the lower mark on the first version will NOT affect your final standing in the course.
8. Rewrites are normally due within two weeks. However, turn them in earlier if your revisions are minor.
9. Late penalties of one letter grade per day will apply to essay revisions submitted past the deadline.
10. Good luck!

### **INDIVIDUAL CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:**

Individual work with the instructor on specific compositions is necessary and expected. Feel free to consult me as often as possible for extra help in completing course assignments. Whenever necessary, contact me to discuss any difficulties that you encounter completing course assignments. My office telephone number is provided on the first page of this course outline. If I am not available to take your call, please leave your name, a brief message and a phone number where you can be reached. I make a point of checking my voice mail and office e-mail messages from home. You can contact me by e-mail through my regular college e-mail account: [hanna@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:hanna@gprc.ab.ca)

### **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 **2005-06 GPRC Calendar** (pp. 47-48). For easier reference, here is GPRC's official policy on plagiarism:

#### **Academic Dishonesty - Plagiarism and Cheating**

The College expects intellectual honesty from its students. Intellectual honesty demands that the contribution of others be acknowledged. To do less is to cheat. Intellectual dishonesty undermines the quality of academic activity and accordingly, the College has adopted appropriate penalties for student misconduct with respect to plagiarism and cheating. Penalties are levied according to the degree of the infraction. If you are unsure whether a particular course of action might constitute plagiarism, you are advised to consult with the instructor.

Plagiarism involves submitting work (words, ideas, images, or data) in a course as if it were your own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not.

Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

1. The work you submit or present was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than yourself (this includes having another person impersonate you or otherwise substitute the work of another for your own in an examination, test or assignment).
2. Parts of your work are taken from another source without reference to the original author. This includes ideas, words, and images appearing in print, digital, graphical, internet, audio and video formats.
3. You submit or present the work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with you) without the prior agreement of the instructor.
4. Clinical or laboratory reports are falsified or fabricated.

While it is recognized that academic work often involves reference to ideas, data and conclusions of others, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Instructors may choose to use online plagiarism detection services. When you submit a paper, the College considers that you are consenting to a review of your paper by these services and further understands that you cannot claim any copyright violation should your paper be uploaded to an online plagiarism detection service.

### **Penalties**

At the request of the instructor, the Department Chair in consultation with the Vice President Academic may, depending on the seriousness of the offense, impose one of the following penalties if there is evidence of plagiarism/cheating misconduct:

1. Re-write the assignment or examination if time permits.
2. Re-write the paper or essay if time permits but reduce the grade by an appropriate amount.
3. A grade of "F" on the assignment or exam.

At the request of the Instructor, the Department Chair, in consultation with the Vice President Academic, may, depending on the seriousness of the offense, impose one of the following penalties will be imposed if there is evidence of plagiarism/cheating misconduct:

1. Any of the penalties specified above and a warning that further offenses will result in a permanent record on your file.
2. A permanent record placed on your file but not on your transcript.
3. Forced withdrawal from the course and a failing grade in the course.
4. Forced withdrawal from the College and a permanent record on your transcript.

### **Appeal**

Any appeal should follow the guidelines set out in the Student Academic Grievance Policy. Disciplinary action will be suspended until the outcome of the appeal process.

### **TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF EN 2390 (STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE) FALL TERM 2005**

- EN 2390 consists of 14 classes extending from September 7 to December 7, 2005.
- Plays will be studied in the order listed on the first page of this course outline.

#### **September 7**

Introduction / Overview / Expectations

Course Outline

Main Requirements and Assignments.

Shakespeare, the Man and His Time: Historical Overview

Elizabethan Period.

Jacobean Era.

Shakespeare on Stage and Screen.

Shakespeare and Pop Culture: The Bard's Infiltration of Theatre, Cinema, Television, Music, Opera, Advertising and Corporate Boardrooms.

#### **September 14**

Shakespeare's Early Comedies: The Merchant of Venice.

Elements of Traditional English Comedy

The Two Worlds of Venice and Belmont

Is Merchant an anti-Semitic text?

Shylock: Stock Villain? Sympathetic Figure? Tragic Victim?

#### **September 21**

The Ring Episode and the Primacy of the Marital Bond

Homo-erotic Readings of Antonio's Relationship with Bassanio

The Merchant of Venice on Stage and Screen

**September 28**

Much Ado About Nothing.

Beatrice and Benedick as Lovers.

Elements of Shakespeare's Middle or Mature Comedies

Male Bonding versus romantic love and marriage.

Tragic elements in Much Ado.

Dogberry and the Watch: Comic Relief?

**October 5**

Much Ado About Nothing Revisited.

Don John and Shylock as unrepentant villains.

Marriage from The Merchant of Venice to Much Ado About Nothing.

Much Ado on Stage and Screen.

- *Distribute topics for Take-Home Midterm Test.*

- Long Weekend October 8-9-10, 2005
- Thanksgiving Day: Monday, October 10 [no classes]

**October 12**

Overview of Shakespeare's History Plays

Henry IV, First Part in the context of Shakespeare's Second Tetralogy

Falstaff and Prince Hal as Lords of Misrule.

Tavern, court and Battlefield

Kingship, Acting, and the dynamics of political power.

**Take-Home Midterm Test due October 12, 2005**

Weighting: **10%** of the course grade.

**October 19**

Symbolic Geography in Henry IV, Part 1

The role of Hotspur

Falstaff: Comic genius, Child-like egoist or Dark, sinister figure?

Henry IV, Part 1 as a drama of education: Is Hal educated in the tavern?

**October 26**

Henry IV, Second Part

A 'pot-boiler' sequel or a "full-fledged member of the canon"?

Recurrent disease Imagery

Falstaff: a Diminished Figure?

Symbolic Geography: Shifts in Physical Setting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Major Essay Due on October 26, 2005**

Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.

2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)

**November 2**

Prince Hal and the Mystique of kingship

The youthful, optimistic mood of Henry IV, First Part versus the elegiac, nostalgic note of the Second Part.

The Rejection Scene in Henry IV, Second Part

Henry IV, Second Part on Stage and Screen

Orson Welles's Chimes at Midnight

**November 9**

Hamlet as a Revenge Drama

Psychoanalytic Readings of Hamlet

- Four-Day Long Weekend November 10-11-12-13
- Fall Break: Thursday, November 10 [no classes]
- Remembrance Day: Friday, October 11 [no classes]

**November 16**

Hamlet: Shakespeare's Greatest Play? Most Cerebral Tragedy?

Prince Hamlet as a tragic protagonist.

Polonius as Elizabethan politician

Hamlet's relationship with Ophelia

**November 23**

Hamlet on Stage and Screen –

From Television Adaptations to Big Screen productions:

Laurence Olivier (1948)

Franco Zeffirelli (1990)

Kenneth Branagh (1996)

Michael Almereyda (2000/I)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Major Essay Due on November 23, 2005.**

Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.

2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)

**November 30**

Tragedy and Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Macbeth: Evil "Butcher" or Sympathetic Protagonist?

From the crudity of Titus Andronicus to the elevated poetry of Macbeth

Poetry and the Catharsis of Tragedy in Macbeth.

Light and darkness in the play. Role of the supernatural: the three witches.

The Role of Lady Macbeth.

Comic Relief? Macbeth as one of Shakespeare's four great tragedies.

**December 7**

Macbeth on Stage and Screen: Orson Welles' Macbeth  
Ikira Kurosawa's Throne of Blood: A Japanese Macbeth.  
BC TV Macbeth  
Polanski's Macbeth

**END OF COURSE**