



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

EN 2390 (A2) Introduction to Shakespeare - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: George Hanna **PHONE:** 780-539-2090
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. and Tues., 3-4:30—or alternate times by appointment.

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

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

David Bevington, ed. *The Necessary Shakespeare*, 4th ed. Toronto: Pearson, 2014.
ISBN-10: 0-321-88094-3 **ISBN-13:** 978-0-321-88094-9

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

A reading of nine plays, representing the range of Shakespeare's work.

***Extended course description is at the end of this document.**

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE: The course work includes lectures, instructor-led seminars, in-class assignments and group oral presentations.

OBJECTIVES:

EN 2390 has been designed to improve students' knowledge of Shakespeare's works, with a close textual reading of histories, comedies, and tragedies from the early to the late periods of Shakespeare's career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- practice close textual analysis of the plays' poetic language and dramatic structure.

- grasp the political, social, cultural, and historical background of Elizabethan and Jacobean England.
- demonstrate a grasp of traditional and newer, more controversial scholarly approaches to Shakespeare.
- understand the distinctive features of the Elizabethan theatre and the nature of the leading acting companies;
- grasp the impact of different acting styles on the performance history of Shakespeare's plays;
- acquire an overview of critical approaches to Shakespeare.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, KUC, Concordia UC, Canadian UC

* A 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—particularly since all transfer arrangements are subject to change.

GRADING CRITERIA:

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.

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	83 – 89	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 82	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	72 – 75	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	69 – 71	

C⁺	2.3	66 – 68	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 65	
C⁻	1.7	59 – 62	
D⁺	1.3	55 – 58	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

* Percentages will be converted into four-point letter grades and assigned 4-point numerical equivalents (see above chart) in order to help determine your final standing in the course.

* Percentages, then, are **not** used to determine your final grade.

EVALUATIONS:

Brief Take-Home Essay	10%
First Major Paper	20%
Second Major Paper	20%
Individual Oral Participation & Group Oral Presentation	10%
In-Class Group Assignments	10%
Final Exam*	30%

* The final exam will be scheduled during the official exam period, December 10-19. As you will not be allowed to write an early or deferred exam, do **not** book travel, work or other activities during the college-wide exam period.

EVALUATION & ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- A brief Take-Home writing assignment will be distributed Wed., September 16. Minimum length: 500 words (about 2 typed pages). Weighting: **10%** of the course grade. Due Wed., September 23.
- 1st Major Essay Due Wed., October 14: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade. 2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)

- 2nd Major Essay Due Wed., November 18: Weighting: **20%** of the course grade. 2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)
- Group Oral Presentations: Weighting **10%** [6 or more students per group, according to interest and class size]. **Date:** Due Wed., December 2 & Mon., December 7.
- Individual Oral Participation and In-Class Group Assignments—Weighting: **10%**—with a cumulative grade assigned at the end of the course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please refer to the online 2015-16 GPRC Calendar—

https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Rules of Engagement are as follows:

- No texting during lectures or class discussions.
- No listening to iPods
- No engaging in side conversations while the instructor or other students are speaking.
- No arriving late.

ATTENDANCE

Excessive absenteeism—defined as **two or more unexcused absences** per term—may adversely affect your grade. Students with more than three unexcused absences may be debarred from writing the Final Exam.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student

Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at

www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

EN 2390—Introduction to Shakespeare—READING LIST FALL 2015

- Course Introduction—Wednesday, September 2
- 1. *The First Part of King Henry Fourth*. September 9-14-16
- 2. *The Second Part of King Henry Fourth*. September 21-23-28
- 3. *Macbeth*. September 30-October 5-7
- 4. *Othello*. October 14-19-21-26
- 5. *Twelfth Night*. October 28-November 2-4-16
- 6. *Much Ado About Nothing*. November 18-23-25-30
- Group Oral Presentations are scheduled for Wed., December 2 & Mon., December 7
- Last Shakespeare class: Mon., December 7, 2015

EXTENDED 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 emphasize close textual analysis. Other matters for investigation 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; and the pastoral tradition.