

## GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

### DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMERCE

**COURSE:** English 3380: Shakespeare

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. J. Mighton

**CREDIT:** 6(3-0) UT (6)

**PREREQUISITE:** English 1010 or its equivalent

**DESCRIPTION:** English 3380 will focus on a selection of fifteen plays by the most renowned poet in English literature. This selection includes histories, comedies, and tragedies from the early to the late periods of Shakespeare's career, although reference will be made to a number of other plays and poems in the canon. Some time will be spent exploring the political, social, cultural and historical milieu of Elizabethan England, but the principle emphasis will be on the language of the texts themselves.

The lectures and discussion will focus primarily on analysis of the texts. Other matters discussed will include the following: the renaissance, the Elizabethan theatre and acting companies, acting styles, the varieties of Shakespearean scholarship, characteristics of Elizabethan tragedy and comedy, courtly love and the Petrarchan convention, the pastoral tradition, theories of kingship, and so on.

Students are expected to attend viewing of video-taped productions of the plays, outside of class time, during the year. The last class in December and April will consist of a question and answer game based on the plays studied; teams will be selected and prizes given.

**COURSE:**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

3 essays of approximately 2000 words each (20% each).

A 1 hour mid-term quiz in December (10%).

A 3 hour final examination in April (30%).

Explication, in class, of one passage selected from the plays.

Marks will be deducted for papers turned in late, and no papers will be accepted after the others are returned. Attendance is expected at all classes and it will be assumed, therefore, that students are aware of course material as well as announcements, deadlines, etc. given in class.

TEXTS:     The Taming of the Shrew  
              Romeo and Juliet  
              Richard II  
              Henry IV, Part 1  
              Henry IV, Part 2  
              The Merchant of Venice  
              Twelfth Night  
              Measure for Measure  
              Julius Caesar  
              Hamlet  
              The Winter's Tale  
              King Lear  
              Macbeth  
              The Tempest

The Signet edition of the above plays will be used in class. Frequent references will be made to the introductions, criticism, and explanatory notes contained in the Signet editions.

The following useful critical works will be placed on the reserve shelf in the Library:

Kernan, Alvin. Modern Shakespearean Criticism: Essays on Style, Dramaturgy and Major Plays.

Tillyard, E.M.W. Shakespeare's History Plays

Scragg, Leah. Discovering Shakespeare's Meaning

Muir, Kenneth. Shakespeare's Tragic Sequence  
                  Shakespeare's Comic Sequence

Kantorowicz.     The King's Two Bodies

Dean, Leonard.   Shakespeare: Modern Essays in Criticism

Mehl, Dieter.     Shakespeare's Tragedies: An Introduction

Mangan, Michael. A preface to Shakespeare's Tragedies.

(Other titles may be added during the course of the year.)