

SYLLABUS - Fall 2005

ENLT 220: Shakespeare Sect. 1
Instructor: Michael Friedman
E-mail: friedmanm1@scranton.edu

Office: CLP 210 Tel: x4229
Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:30
and by appointment

Required Texts

The Signet Classics edition of seven plays: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Richard II, Henry IV Part 1, Othello, King Lear, and The Tempest.

Course Requirements

1. Two short papers, printed, of approximately 3-5 pages, on a topic given by the instructor. These essays will be due on Oct. 6 and Nov. 17 (See CALENDAR OF EVENTS). Late papers will be grudgingly accepted, but one grade will be subtracted for each day that the paper is late. Papers turned in more than three days late will receive a failing grade, and neglecting to turn in a paper before the last class meeting will earn you an F for the course. One extension per semester may be granted if you see me before the paper's due date with a good reason. More information on the form of these essays will be given during the Paper Clinic on Sept. 27.
2. One Final project. This assignment will concern your version of the staging of a scene from one of the plays we are reading this semester. You will perform this scene for the class during one of the last two meetings of the semester, and a group representative will give a short talk afterwards. One member of each group who may not feel comfortable acting may serve as the group's director and present the oral report which summarizes the group's intentions and discoveries.
3. Two exams, one midterm and one final, the midterm to be held on Oct. 27 and the final during the exam period. The exams will be primarily objective; that is, you will be asked to give concise definitions of terms used in lectures and discussions and to identify the speaker and significance of quotations taken from the texts we have read. You will not be given long essay questions to answer, for such subjects are the stuff of papers.
4. Discussion. For the second class period devoted to each play, you will be divided into discussion groups of approximately five members to share your insights on issues not covered in lectures. During the semester, each of you will be responsible for serving one turn as the leader (directing the course of the discussion) and several turns as a participant. Your discussion grade will be based upon the combined performance of all members of your group in their assigned roles as well as on your own personal performance over the course of the semester. To prepare for these sessions, you will answer in writing two sets of discussion questions which will lay out the broad thematic issues that the discussion should try to cover. To receive a passing grade on these assignments, you must adhere to the basic grammatical rules of English and answer both

sets of questions with sufficient elaboration and textual support. Questions turned in late will receive only half credit. Also, you are strongly encouraged to participate in our classroom staging of selections from the plays. You will not be graded on your acting per se, but on your willingness to take part and to contribute to the thought that goes into the construction of the scenes.

5. Attendance will be taken at every class. Since the course meets twice a week, four absences will be allowed; one grade will be subtracted from your final grade for each absence beyond four. Two late arrivals count as one absence. You must also prepare for class by completing all reading assignments on time. Before each lecture class, I will administer a short quiz intended to encourage you to finish reading the play by that time. Filmed and/or videotaped versions of the plays are available at Media Resources for you to view, but seeing the video or DVD is only a supplement to (not a substitute for) reading the plays. As you watch, notice how performances choose to interpret the indeterminate aspects of Shakespeare's written texts.

Computation of Grades

Short papers (2)	10% each
Discussion (Individual and Group)	20%
Midterm	20%
Quizzes	10%
Final project	10%
Final exam	20%

Course Structure - We will spend 3 class periods on each play:

1. The first period will be taken up by a lecture providing background information on the play and the place it holds in the body of Shakespeare's work, as well as an analysis of its meaning.
2. The second period will be consumed by a small-group and then a large-group discussion of several aspects of the play's design, the ideas it presents, and the questions it provokes.
3. The third period will be devoted to questions of staging and production. During these sessions, we will act out scenes from the plays or view videotapes of productions.

This entire syllabus is subject to change and may be updated as the semester progresses.

Formal writing for undergraduate literature courses in the English department should follow Modern Language Association guidelines, as found for example in the current edition of Joseph Gibaldi's MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, available in the campus bookstore.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/30 Go over syllabus

9/1 Introduction - Read "Shakespeare: An Overview"

9/6 A Midsummer Night's Dream

9/8 " " " "

9/13 " " " "

9/15 Twelfth Night

9/20 " "

9/22 " " (Get paper topics)

9/27 Paper Clinic

9/29 Richard II

10/4 " "

10/6 " " (Paper #1 due)

10/11 Henry IV Part 1

10/13 " " " "

FALL BREAK

10/20 " " " "

10/25 Follow-up Paper Clinic

10/27 Midterm

11/1 Othello

11/3 " (Get paper topics)

11/8 "

11/10 King Lear

11/15 " " (Final Projects approved)

11/17 " " (Paper #2 due)

11/22 The Tempest

THANKSGIVING

11/29 " "

12/1 " "

12/6 Final Projects

12/8 " "