

SYLLABUS - Fall 2002

ENLT 341 Shakespeare, Special
Instructor: Michael Friedman

Office: CLP 210 Tel: x4229 Topics: Tragedies
Office Hours: MF 10:30-12:00
and by appointment

Required Texts

The Signet Classics edition of seven plays: Titus Andronicus, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra, and Coriolanus.

Course Requirements

1. Two short papers, typed, of approximately 4-6 pages, on a topic given by the instructor. These essays will be due on Oct. 3 and Nov. 14 (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 four days late will receive no credit, and neglecting to turn in a paper before our last class will earn you a failing grade 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. 24.

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. 24 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 term, 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. 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 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. Responses turned in late will receive only half credit. Half of your grade for discussion will be based upon the combined performance of all the members of your group in their assigned roles; the other half will depend upon your

personal performance on the written responses and in the discussions themselves over the course of the semester.

5. Critical Readings - Along with the plays themselves (and their introductions), you will be assigned two articles per play to read and respond to in writing. Your half-page response to each essay should give a brief paraphrase of the thesis of the article and a personal evaluation of whether or not the essay was helpful, convincing, and/or well-supported. These articles are located at the back of the Signet editions of each play, and their opening page numbers and due dates are listed on the Calendar of Events. I will collect your critical reading responses at the third class period devoted to each play.

6. Attendance will be taken at every class, and one grade will be subtracted from your final grade for every absence above four. You must also prepare for class by completing all reading assignments on time. Before each lecture class, I will administer a short objective quiz intended to encourage you to finish reading the play by that time. Video versions of the plays are also available in the library for you to view, but seeing the video is only a supplement to (not a substitute for) reading the plays. You are also strongly encouraged to participate in our classroom staging of selections from the plays. You will not be evaluated on the basis of your acting or suggestions, but around grading time, I do consider positively your willingness to contribute to the work that occurs when we workshop a scene.

Computation of Grades

Short papers (2)	10% each
Discussion	20% (10% group and 10% individual)
Midterm	15%
Critical Readings	10%
Quizzes	10%
Final project	10%
Final exam	15%

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.
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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/27 Go over syllabus
8/29 Intro Lecture - Read "Shakespeare: An Overview" - Have Titus

9/3 Titus Andronicus
9/5 " "
9/10 Price [149] and Charlton [161]

9/12 Romeo and Juliet
9/17 " " "
9/19 Goldman [160] and Snyder [171] (**get paper topics**)

9/24 Paper Clinic

9/26 Julius Caesar
10/1 " "
10/3 Mack [152] and Kahn [169] (**Paper #1 due**)

10/8 Hamlet
10/10 "
10/17 Mack [191] and Heilbrun [223]

10/22 Follow-up Paper Clinic
10/24 Midterm

10/29 Macbeth
10/31 " (**get paper topics**)
11/5 McCarthy [157] and Klein [168]

11/7 Antony and Cleopatra
11/12 " " " (**Final Projects approved**)
11/14 Danby [208] and Adelman [233] (**Paper #2 due**)

11/19 Coriolanus
11/21 "
11/26 Traversi [281] and Van Dyke [298]

12/3 Final Projects
12/5 " "

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.