

Shakespeare and Performance Section 80

ENGL 145

Fall 2023 4 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/15/2023

Course Description and Requisites

Course examines in depth several of Shakespeare's plays, specifically addressing issues of performance. We will discuss each play in the context of its original performance during Shakespeare's time and its life on stage and screen in the ensuing centuries.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Course Recommendations: Read the materials thoroughly before class. Read and listen actively: mark passages that we discuss and note what is important about them. Bring the appropriate texts with you to class so that you can follow the lectures and participate in the discussions.

Please arrive on time and have the materials read in full by the time we begin to discuss them in class. Regular attendance and active class participation are required.

Classroom Etiquette: Video cameras should be on whenever possible and students should limit distractions. Students should ask questions and be prepared to engage with the professor and their fellow students.

AI: In many ways, the act of writing is a way to think further on a topic and to organize or clarify those thoughts. The connection between writing and thinking is crucial to your development as a communicator, and it is a skill that will serve you well in all of your future endeavors. Using AI to respond to essay prompts is cheating; it is cheating you out of the education you are paying for. If I see that you used AI for any significant percentage of any written assignment, I will not provide feedback, nor will you receive a passing grade for the assignment.

Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.

2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
 3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
 4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
 5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.
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Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Goals

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- Explore several of Shakespeare's plays both in textual form and through performance both on stage and screen.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the language of visual composition and principles of theatrical design (e.g., set design, costume, lighting, sound, props)
- Evaluate and deliver oral performance in a variety of forms
- Learn and apply the fundamentals of stage directing, including conceptualization, blocking (movement patterns), tempo, and dramatic arc (rising and falling action)
- Analyze and evaluate contemporary productions of the plays and assess their social impact
- Participate in and evaluate dramatic performances
- Employ basic elements of character analysis and approaches to acting, including physical and vocal techniques that reveal characterizations and relationships
- Demonstrate and evaluate individual performance skills (e.g., diction, enunciation, vocal rate, range, pitch, volume, body language, eye contact, and response to audience)

The primary goals of this course are to introduce you to several of Shakespeare's major works and to encourage you to begin to imagine what life must have been like for Shakespeare and his audiences, as well as to get a sense of the enormous impact the professional theater had on

Elizabethan culture. You will also gain from this course a general understanding of dramatic form (comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances), and a reading competence in Elizabethan English. Finally, I would like you to acquire an appreciation for the range of choices involved in performing—and therefore interpreting—a Shakespearean play.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric (Familiarity with literary forms through reading, lecture, and discussion-assessed by participation grade, close reading skill)
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British literature (Final Exam)
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively (Essays and Reviews)
4. Develop and carry out research projects (Essays and Reviews)
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts (Lecture, Final Project, Final Exam, Essays)

This course serves the department's Learning Outcomes 1 and 2 (LO1 and LO2) by introducing you to Shakespearean poetry and drama. Students read closely throughout the course and will have ample opportunity to discuss and write about what they learn. LO1 and LO2 will be measured by participation, discussion, and reader responses.

Students are asked to write several essays and reviews for this course (a total of at least 5,000 words) including one research assignment; this clearly serves Learning Outcomes 3 and 4 (LO3 and LO4). Assessment of student success in LO3 and LO4 will be measured by their grades on these essays.

All of my classes are discussion based. Students are asked to come to class prepared to talk about the material they read, and my lectures aim to help students to realize the relations among culture, history, and the texts we read. The ability to articulate the relationships listed in Learning Outcome 5 (LO5) is measured by the students' participation and final grade in the course.

Course/Program Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
LO 1: Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric	Participation/discussion and reader responses
LO 2: Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British literature	Participation/discussion, research assignment, and final exam.
LO 3: Write clearly, effectively, and creatively	Essays, film reviews
LO 4: Develop and carry out research projects	Research assignment
LO 5: Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power	Participation/discussion, essays, final exam

Course Materials

Textbook

The Norton Shakespeare Essential Plays. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean Howard, Katherine Eisaman Maus, Gordon McMullan, and Suzanne Gossett. ISBN: 978-0-393-933130

Other Readings

Recommended: McDonald, Russ. *The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare*, 2nd Edition (BCS), New York:

Bedford/St. Martin's, 200. 978-0-312-24880-6

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

In order to participate in an online class, students must have a computer (preferably equipped with a camera), reliable internet connectivity, and the ability to log on to Canvas.

Our textbook is available in an electronic form as well as paper; however, in order to fully participate in our synchronous sessions, you must be able to follow along in your book during class. For this reason, I recommend that you use either the paper version or a separate tablet/e-reader.

Film Viewing: There are several films (indicated on the schedule below) that you are required to view for this class. These movies are widely available on Netflix and other streaming sites. After viewing a required film, you must write up a short review of the production. Instructions for reviews will be posted on Canvas.

Kanopy Streaming: SJSU Library has a link to a streaming database called Kanopy. Full-length films are available there for free (several of which are listed as optional for this course), and links to film clips will also be posted for some assignments. In order to see what is posted there, you must log in using your SJSU account. Please make sure your account is working so that you can view these videos.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Essays: You will be asked to write two formal essays (1,500 words each) for this class. The first essay will require you to compare one aspect of at least two different film or stage versions of a play we will be reading for this class. The second essay will involve a more detailed analysis of some aspect of Shakespeare's plays. Prompts will be distributed for both essays in advance. Your success on these papers will be directly proportional to your knowledge and understanding of the texts.

Film Reviews: You will also be required to write reviews (1,000 words each) of some of the required films. The reviews will ask you to evaluate the production against your knowledge of the play itself. Detailed instructions will be available in advance of the first assignment.

Format: Your essays should follow MLA style guidelines which are available here:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Late Papers: Turning in assignments late is unfair to the other students; therefore, I will lower your grade one full letter for each day the paper is late. In the case of emergencies, please contact me.

I do not accept emailed assignments under any circumstances.

Participation: Because a large portion of this course involves discussion, workshops, and oral performances, active participation is imperative. Students will be expected to discuss the plays in detail, and to deliver and evaluate a variety of performances. In order to receive an A or a B in participation, you must log on in time for our Tuesday meetings, preferably with your camera on. Active participation in this class will include asking questions about the material, volunteering to read, participating in break-out groups, making requisite online discussion posts, and other activities. Meaningful and thoughtful responses to the online discussion threads will be part of your overall grade.

Participation also includes having your book during class and following along as directed. In other words, bring your book and be prepared to open it.

National Theatre Live: During the weekend of September 15-17, students from this class should plan on attending at least one of the plays that will be screened at the Hammer Theatre. Tickets for this performance are free for my students. After viewing the play, students will write a short (500 words) description of the production, making note of what you noticed or what surprised you. At the end of the semester, after we have studied each of the plays in depth, you will write a second piece (500 words) reflecting on how the lectures and/or discussion changed, or failed to change, your initial impression of the production.

Quizzes: Each lecture module will include at least one quiz on the content presented in the lecture. These will make up 10% of your grade.

Reading Responses: Periodically, you will be asked to post responses to the lecture material as part of our online discussion.

Research Assignment: You will be asked to conduct research on one of the plays we are reading for this course and to upload a handout summarizing and evaluating the scholarly discourse on the play.

Final Project: By way of a final project, I would like you to respond creatively to one of Shakespeare's plays or to an important scene in one of the plays. You might decide to "produce" a version of an important scene for yourselves and then provide a written rationale of your production. Consider your creative options wide open. Make your choices dependent upon your talents and interests. You might wish to collaborate with other students to film a scene on video, do an audio production, or respond to the scene in some other way. For example, you might draw a cartoon version of a scene, or write an "updated" version. Since many

of you will be going on to teach Shakespeare in high schools, you might choose to write a lesson plan for a unit on Shakespeare. Further instructions will be distributed later in the semester, but keep this requirement in mind as you read through the material.

A final exam will be given at the end of the semester involving close reading and identification of Shakespeare's texts.

Grading Information

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation: 10%

National Theatre Live Production Description: 2.5%

National Theatre Live Reflection: 2.5%

Essay 1: 10 %

Essay 2: 15 %

Film Reviews: 15%

Final Project: 10%

Research Assignment: 5%

Quizzes: 10%

Reading Responses: 5%

Final Exam: 15 %

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

ENGL 145 Fall 2023, Reading Schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Modules must be completed before the following class meeting unless otherwise indicated. Quizzes will be closed by 11:59 p.m. the Sunday before class.

Course Schedule

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Module 0		Welcome message Syllabus
First Day	8/21 *	Welcome and introductions
HOMEWORK		Before our class on 8/28, read "Shakespeare's World" in your anthologies (pages 1-31) and complete Module 1.
Module 1		Watch <i>Playing Shakespeare</i> Complete Plagiarism Quiz
Week 1	8/28*	CLASS MEETING Shakespeare's World
Labor Day	9/4	No Class
HOMEWORK Read sonnets 1-5, 18-20, 127, 131, and 144 for class on 9/11		
Week 2	9/11*	CLASS MEETING Crash Course on the Sonnet Intro to <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Module 2		Prework: Read <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Watch: Lecture 1 on <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Complete Quiz 1 Sign up for Monologues
9/15-9/17		National Theater Live at the Hammer Information available here
Week 3	9/18*	CLASS MEETING <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Module 3		Watch Lecture 2 on <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Complete Quiz 2 Watch film clips and post to Discussion Review directions for Film Reviews National Theatre Live Descriptions Due by 11:59 p.m. 9/23
Required Viewing: <i>Romeo + Juliet</i> , dir. Baz Luhrman. Optional Viewing: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , dir. F. Zefferelli		
Week 4	9/25*	CLASS MEETING <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Intro to <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
		Film Review 1 DUE by 11:59 p.m.

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Module 4		Prework: Read <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Watch Lectures 1 and 2 on <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Complete Quiz 3 Post Reader Response 1 Review Essay 1 Prompt
Week 5	10/2*	CLASS MEETING, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
Module 5		Prework: Read <i>Merchant of Venice</i> Watch Lectures 1 and 2 on <i>Merchant of Venice</i> Post Reader Response 2 Complete Quiz 4
Required Viewing: <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , dir. M. Radford, (with Al Pacino).		
Week 6	10/9*	CLASS MEETING, <i>Merchant of Venice</i>
Module 6		Prework: Read <i>Richard III</i> Review Genealogy Watch Lectures 1 and 2 on <i>Richard III</i> View video clips and post to Discussion
		Essay 1 DUE by 11:59 p.m.
Week 7	10/16*	CLASS MEETING, <i>Richard III</i>

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Module 7		Watch Lectures 3 and 4 on <i>Richard III</i> Post Reader Response 3 Complete Quiz 5 Review Essay 2 Prompt
		Film Review 2 DUE by 11:59 p.m.
Week 8	10/23*	CLASS MEETING – <i>Richard III</i>
Optional Viewing: <i>Richard III</i> . Dir. Richard Loncraine with Ian McKellen. Optional Viewing: <i>Richard III</i> . Dir. Laurence Olivier. The Criterion Collection, 1955.		
Module 8		Watch <i>Hamlet</i> Lectures 1, 2, 3, and 4 Complete Quiz 6 Post Reader Response 4 View video clip and post to Discussion Review Research Assignment Directions
Week 9	10/30*	CLASS MEETING – <i>Hamlet</i>
Module 9		Watch <i>Hamlet</i> Lecture 5 Complete Quiz 7 View video clips and post to Discussion
Required viewing: <i>Hamlet</i> Dir. M. Almereyda, with Ethan Hawke. Optional viewing: <i>Hamlet</i> . Dir. K. Branagh. Optional viewing: <i>Hamlet</i> with David Tennant. PBS.		

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Week 10	11/6*	CLASS MEETING – <i>Hamlet</i>
Module 10		Pework: Read <i>Othello</i> <i>Othello</i> , Lectures 1 and 2 Complete Quiz 8
Week 11	11/13*	CLASS MEETING - <i>Othello</i>
Module 11		Watch Lecture 3 on <i>Othello</i> Complete Quiz 9 Review Final Project Directions
		Essay 2 DUE by 11:59 p.m.
Optional viewing: <i>Othello</i> , Dir. Parker, with Lawrence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh Optional viewing: <i>Othello</i> , Dir. Jonathan Miller, with Anthony Hopkins.		
Week 12	11/20*	CLASS MEETING <i>Othello</i>
Module 12		Watch Lecture 1 on <i>King Lear</i> Post Reader Response 5 View video clips and post to Discussion
		Film Review 3 DUE by 11:59 p.m.
Week 13	11/27*	CLASS MEETING <i>King Lear</i>

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Module 13		Watch Lecture 2 on <i>King Lear</i> Take Quiz 10 National Theatre Live Response Papers Due no later than 11:59 p.m. 12/2
		Research Assignment Due by 11:59 p.m.
Week 14	12/4*	Last day of instruction – Final exam prep
	12/5	Final Projects Due by 11:59 p.m.
Module 14 FINAL EXAM	12/12	Timed Final available from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.