

English 463: Shakespeare

Dr. John Freeman
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Office Hours: 11:00-12:30 p.m. M W F
5:30-6:30 p.m. R, and by arrangement
Class Meeting Place/Times:
Briggs 25
6:40-9:10 p.m. Thursday

Required Texts:

- 1) **The Taming of the Shrew*, ed. Frances E. Dolan (Bedford/St. Martin's)
- 2) *Sonnets*
- 3) *Merchant of Venice*, Jay L. Halio (Oxford)
- 4) **Henry IV, Part One*
- 5) **Hamlet*, ed. Susanne L. Wofford (Bedford/St. Martin's)
- 6) *Othello*
- 7) **The Tempest*, eds. Gerald Graff and James Phelan (Bedford/St. Martin's)

Please note: The above editions marked with an asterisk come with essential reference sources, especially required secondary readings; thus, you must obtain these editions from the McNichols Bookstore.

Course Description:

Beyond providing students with a wide-ranging survey of Shakespeare's works--from early comedies, sonnets, the history play, mature tragedies, and romance--the course also provides the social, historical and critical contexts that contribute so much to our understanding of Shakespeare's works. Approaching the works from a new historical perspective, for example, we will examine how popular conceptions of the "shrew" as well as official policies regarding household management play at the margins of *The Taming of the Shrew*. We will also consider how a Shakespeare text can be layered in other critical modes such as feminist, psychoanalytical, deconstructive, and rhetorical analysis. A particular focus for this class will involve the Other in Shakespeare, the tendency in Shakespearean works to focus on an "outsider" (a Jew, a Moor, a female, a homosexual) and use that representation as a means of critiquing social and cultural norms of his own period.

Writing Requirements

1) Study questions, in-class exercises, panels, and unannounced reading quizzes (30%).
Note: Study questions and other out-of-class work must be typed.

2) Position papers on selected topics drawn from the various plays and sonnets. Students will have opportunities to address critical questions and debates that have been occasioned by these works; for example, Should the Induction scene be excluded from *The Taming of the Shrew*? Or students will be asked to relate the historical and social contexts provided in our editions to various elements in the plays. (40%)

3) One comparison/contrast of two articles of differing methodologies concerning a Shakespeare work. The focus here will be less on the content of the articles and more on what they reveal about the ideological assumptions of the individual writers. Students will be asked to share their findings in class. (20%)

4) Final Exam (10%)

Format of Papers

All essays should be typed and double-spaced. They should have a title page (with an evocative title). Your name, assignment number, class, and date should appear towards the right-hand bottom of the title page. Do not repeat your title on the first page of the essay. Shorter out-of-class assignments should also be turned in typed and double-spaced, with no title page required.

Revisions

Students are encouraged to revise essays. Any essay may be revised. Be sure to submit both the original, with the grade sheet, and the revised copy. The grade for the revised essay will replace the grade for the original. No revised essays will be accepted after the thirteenth week of class.

Attendance Policy

This class demands your most careful participation and diligence. Mastery of the critical approaches will be of utmost importance in writing quality essays. Historically, students who attend class and participate in workshops do much better than those who do not. In-class work and quizzes cannot be turned in after the due date. Quizzes are often based on the lecture for the preceding class. You should come to class having prepared

that day's reading. Out of respect for your classmates and instructor, students should come to class on time and remain for the whole period.

Late Paper Policy/Grace Period

Papers drop one grade step (e.g., from an A to an A-) for every day they are late. If you are having difficulty with an assignment, please contact me BEFORE the due date to receive assistance. All major essays have a one-class grace period, which means that the essay can be turned in the next class meeting after its due date without penalty.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism, the use of someone else's words or ideas as your own without crediting the other person, can result in serious consequences...You are probably already aware of cases of deliberate plagiarism--handing in a paper that a friend wrote for a similar course or that was purchased online, copying passages directly from source materials. In addition, however, you should be aware of unintended plagiarism--a quotation accidentally used without quotation marks, a paraphrase that too closely resembles the original, background details used without acknowledgment in the mistaken belief that none was necessary. By understanding what material you must document, taking systematic, accurate notes, and giving full credit to sources in both parenthetical citations and in your list of sources cited, you can avoid unintended plagiarism.
(Lunsford & Connors, *The New St. Martin's Handbook*, Boston: Bedford, 1999. 495)

Students are expected to turn in their own work, with proper attribution of others' ideas (through proper use of quotation, page referencing, and end-notes). Any work falling short of these standards will receive an "F." Any second instance of plagiarism, either intentional or unintentional, will result in an "F" for the course. Don't intellectually impersonate someone else: Be yourself.

Racist/Sexist/Homophobic Language Policy

While no subjects are off limits for discussion in this course, the abusive use of racist, sexist, or homophobic language has no place in this course.

English Major Portfolio Requirement

Upon declaring the major, English majors, including English Education majors, must begin keeping a portfolio of selected writings accomplished during their careers at UDM. The portfolio will be kept and periodically reviewed by each student's adviser. Each student will update and change the portfolio in consultation with his or her adviser.

At the end of Fall semester of their senior year, English majors must meet with their advisors to finalize the selection of essays for their portfolio. They must also begin to work on a self-reflection essay, a three-to-five page document that serves as a commentary on the portfolio and what it reflects about the writer's academic career. By the end of the eighth week of their final semester, all English and English Education majors must submit to the Chair of the Department of English a portfolio of their work. Any student failing to submit a portfolio will not be allowed to walk at graduation that May.

Course Evaluations

Students are strongly urged to do course evaluations for English 463 at the end of the semester. Your input is important and is taken into consideration when it comes to the selection of texts, devising of writing assignments, formatting of class sessions, and other curricular matters. Course evaluations are part of the ongoing dialogue between instructor and students. They are your opportunity to provide ways to strengthen the course, improve the quality of teaching, and directly affect the learning experience of those students following in your footsteps. Don't be a silent partner in the educational process.

Support Services

Apart from visiting me during my office hours or arranging an appointment at your convenience, students should know that the University offers help in terms of grammar review or composing and rearranging the elements of the essay. To these ends, students can sign up for individual tutoring sessions in Briggs 225, the Writing Center. In the course of the semester, I may refer some students to the Writing Center for help in improving their writing skills. The Writing Center's URL is <ids.udmercy.edu/twc>