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ENGLISH 338: SHAKESPEARE
(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:20am)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces you to the dramatic work of Shakespeare through a close study of nine representative plays. We will appreciate them as poetic drama, but we will pay special attention to how they have been (and might be) performed.

REQUIRED TEXT (*available at Amherst Books*)

The Riverside Shakespeare, 2nd edition (Houghton Mifflin, 1996)
(*please consult with me if you wish to use another Complete Shakespeare*)

COURSE FORMAT

Like many Amherst College courses, this one will blend lecture and discussion formats. I will often ask you to volunteer reactions or interpretations, and I encourage you to interrupt me with questions or comments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Responses: For each play on this syllabus, beginning with *Romeo & Juliet*, you must send me a brief response. This response can be sent in at any point during our study of a given play, but it is due at least twelve hours before the last class on that play. Responses can take many forms. In them, you might analyze a short scene or passage, or compare this play to another. You may focus on language or visualize staging. You might make arguments or simply pose good questions. And you may also, where appropriate, respond to the film paired with a given play.

Exercises, Reactions, & Creative Project: You must complete four informal writing assignments and participate in one creative project, as indicated on the schedule below.

Formal Papers: This course requires two formal papers, each approximately five pages long. I encourage you to visit my regular office hours to plan for these papers.

Screenings/Viewings: Where indicated, screenings of related films will be held on Tuesdays. You are expected to attend either a 4:00pm or a 7:00pm screening. Where the schedule below says “watch” rather than “screening,” the material will be available to stream through the course website.

Required Field Trip: On Friday, March 29th, we will travel together to see *Sleep No More*, an enormous installation/performance piece based on *Macbeth*. The bus will leave campus at 1:00pm and return after midnight. Please plan accordingly.

Final Exam: This course will culminate in a written final exam. You will be able to take it during any of the time slots offered by the registrar for self-scheduled exams.

GRADING

Exercises will be graded on a non-alphabetic scale, as follows:

- ✓- You’ve fallen short. You should discuss the exercise with me.
- ✓ You’ve hit the mark.
- ✓+ You’ve done especially well.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- 1/3 Final exam
- 1/3 Formal papers
- 1/3 Exercises, reactions, responses, and creative project

You must complete all assignments in this course in order to receive a passing grade.

A NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any time you use another person’s words or ideas without giving them credit, that is plagiarism. Plagiarism is not only bad for you education; it also fundamentally undermines the process of academic dialogue. Be sure to cite your sources properly, and if you are uncertain whether citation is necessary in a particular circumstance, just ask.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Th	Jan. 23	Lecture: The Idea of Shakespeare
T	Jan. 28	Lecture: Material Shakespeare SCREENING: <i>Shakespeare in Love</i>
Th	Jan. 30	Selected Sonnets

M Feb. 3 Pair of glossing exercises due by 5pm (~2 pages)

T Feb. 4 *Richard III*
SCREENING: *Looking for Richard*

Th Feb. 6 *Richard III*

T Feb. 11 *Romeo & Juliet*

SCREENING: *Nature Theater of Oklahoma's Romeo & Juliet*

Th Feb. 13 *Romeo & Juliet*

T Feb. 18 *Henry IV, pt. 1*

Th Feb. 20 *Henry IV, pt. 1*

T Feb. 25 *Much Ado About Nothing*

SCREENING: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Th Feb. 27 *Much Ado About Nothing*

M Mar. 4 Staging exercise due by 5pm (1-2 pages)

T Mar. 4 *Hamlet*
WATCH: *Slings & Arrows*, season 1, ep. 1-3

Th Mar. 6 *Hamlet*

T Mar. 11 *Hamlet*

WATCH: *Slings & Arrows*, season 1, ep. 4-6

Th Mar. 13 *Living with Shakespeare*

Midterm, analytic paper due by 5pm on Sunday, March 17 (~5 pages)

SPRING BREAK

T Mar. 25 *Macbeth*

Th Mar. 27 *Macbeth*

PERFORMANCE: *Sleep No More* (On bus to NYC, screen *Vertigo*)

M Mar. 31 *Sleep No More* reaction due by 5pm (1-2 pages)

T Apr. 1 discuss *Sleep No More*

WATCH: *Slings & Arrows*, season 2

Th Apr. 3 discuss *Slings & Arrows*; discuss Text & Concept

T Apr. 8 [Do Something with *Macbeth*]

Th Apr. 10 [Do something with *Macbeth*]

M Apr. 14 Reaction to Thursday's class, due by 5pm (1-2 pages)

T Apr. 15 *Measure for Measure*

Th Apr. 17 *Measure for Measure*

T Apr. 22 *King Lear*

SCREENING: *Korol Lir*

Th Apr. 24 *King Lear*

T Apr. 29 *King Lear*

Th May 1 *The Tempest*

Fr May 2 Final, reflective Paper due by 5pm (~5 pages)

T May 6 *The Tempest*

Self-Scheduled Final Exam