

English 78: Intro to Shakespeare's Drama

Syllabus * Spring 2004 * San Jose State University
Section 1 * TR 9:00 – 10:15 * SH 348 * Code: 22557

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Course Description

An intensive, in-depth reading of seven of Shakespeare's plays for the non-English major. Attention given to analytical ways of reading drama and writing about it.

Course Objectives

As a student in this course you will:

1. Experience the many worlds that Shakespeare creates in his plays and in this way, understand the characters that people these worlds.
2. Learn how to read a dramatic text in depth. Since reading a play is different from reading fiction, you will learn to stage scenes in your minds, to fill in gaps of off-stage action, to analyze the way dramatic structure and language give meaning to the plays. You will come to understand the way image, metaphor, and symbol create meaning in literature.
3. View several productions—on video or DVD—of the plays, and then compare the theatrical interpretation with your developing understanding of the play.
4. Write about your discoveries, your interpretations of the plays regularly for group work, in two papers, two mid-terms, and a final.

Required Texts

Widdicombe, Toby. Simply Shakespeare. New York: Longman, 2002.

I have ordered individual volumes of The Pelican Shakespeare edition of the following plays:

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Antony and Cleopatra
Julius Caesar
King Lear

Richard III
The Tempest
Titus Andronicus

You may also choose to purchase individual volumes of each play from other series, such as the Bantam, Signet, Arden or Oxford Shakespeare; or you may use any reputable collection of Shakespeare that you may already own (e.g. Norton Shakespeare, Riverside Shakespeare, Oxford Shakespeare, or Signet Shakespeare). You should not rely on web versions alone; please purchase a printed volume or volumes so that you can take notes and actively engage with the text inside and outside of class.

Please DO NOT buy any simplified or modernized Shakespeares (such as the Shakespeare Made Easy series or the Shakespeare Can Be Fun series). Please DO NOT rely on Monarch Notes, Cliff Notes, or other study aids. If you use any of these aids, please make sure you cite them in your essays for the course. Otherwise, your paper could be counted as plagiarized.

Course Requirements & Grade Distribution

Grading: All grades will be recorded as percentages until the final grade converts to a letter grade equivalent: A+ = 97, A = 93, A- = 90, B+ = 87, B = 83, B- = 80, C+ = 79, C = 77, C- = 70, D+ = 67, D = 63, D- = 60, F = 0. I do not round up.

READING GROUPS: 35%

MID-TERMS (2): 20%

PAPERS (2): 30%

FINAL: 15%

Course Schedule (subject to change)

MND = A Midsummer Night's Dream **JC** = Julius Caesar **AC** = Antony and Cleopatra
TA = Titus Andronicus **R3** = Richard III **KL** = King Lear **T** = The Tempest **SS** = Simply Shakespeare

| WEEK | DATE | IN CLASS | HOMEWORK ASSIGNED |
|------|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | | | |
| | 1/29 | | MND I; SS pp. 1-18 |
| 2 | 2/3 | | MND II; SS pp. 20-44 |
| | 2/5 | | MND III; SS pp. 46-62 |
| 3 | 2/10 | | MND IV; SS pp. 66-88 |
| | 2/12 | | MND V; SS pp. 90-111 |
| 4 | 2/17 | | JC I |
| | 2/19 | | JC II |
| 5 | 2/24 | Paper #1 due | |
| | 2/26 | | JC III |
| 6 | 3/2 | | JC IV & V |
| | 3/4 | | AC I & II |
| 7 | 3/9 | Mid-term #1 | |
| | 3/11 | | AC III |
| 8 | 3/16 | | AC IV & V |
| | 3/18 | | TA I & II |
| 9 | 3/23 | | TA III |
| | 3/25 | | TA IV & V |
| 10 | 4/6 | | R3 I & II |
| | 4/8 | | R3 III |
| 11 | 4/13 | | R3 IV & V |
| | 4/15 | | KL I & II |
| 12 | 4/20 | Mid-term #2 | |
| | 4/22 | | KL III |
| 13 | 4/27 | | KL IV & V |
| | 4/29 | | T I & II |
| 14 | 5/4 | | T III |
| | 5/6 | | T IV & V |
| 15 | 5/11 | | TBD |
| | 5/13 | | TBD |
| | 5/24 Mon | Paper #2 due; Final Exam 7:15 – 9:00 | |

Course Policies

Second Day Drop: If you do not attend class on the second day of class I will automatically drop you from the class. If for some reason you cannot attend class on the second day, you must tell me by the end of the first class session.

Attendance: While I do not grade you on attendance, because you will be doing group work on a regular basis, missing class will of consequence adversely affect your grade for Reading Group Work.

Lateness: Arriving late disrupts class. Class begins according to the time on the clock on the classroom wall. If you will regularly be unable to get from one part of campus to class within the allotted time, please see me before the third week of classes.

Late Work: All work must be handed in by the end of class on the day it is due; if you submit a paper via e-mail, it must be time-stamped no later than the time that class ends. I do not accept papers turned into the Department Office, FO 102, nor slipped under my office door. You are allowed one late essay with the use of the Late Essay Coupon in your Course Packet; I do not accept late papers otherwise. In the unfortunate circumstance that you submit more than one late paper, you will receive 57 percentage points for completing the assignment. See the Course Packet for information about late Reading Group Work.

Make-up work following an absence: Each student is responsible for obtaining class notes and assignment details.

Cell phones, food & drink: Please make sure your cell phone or pager is turned off before you enter class, and please do not bring any food or drink into the classroom. Bottled water is permitted, however.

Access: I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. You are invited to communicate with me at the outset of the course or at your discretion about any accommodations that will improve your experience of or access to the course. You can also contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 924-6000, 924-6542 (Deaf and HoH - voice), 924-5990 (Deaf and HoH -TTY), 808-2123 (ATC).

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the academic integrity policy undermines the education process and will not be tolerated. They also demonstrate a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students, the course instructor, and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the academic integrity policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from SJSU.

Use of outside assistance/Plagiarism zero-tolerance policy: Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignments found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Vice President for Student Affairs (from the SJSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty, <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/plagiarism/policies.htm>).