

**ENGLISH 341/ THEATER 341: SHAKESPEARE**

Professor: Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin Office: Eder Hall 215  
 Phone: 271-4274 Office hrs: 2:30 – 3:30 TTH  
 Email: [sawin@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:sawin@missouriwestern.edu)  
 Section 01 Time: 3:30-4:50 TTH Classroom: Murphy Hall 106

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To read and analyze several of Shakespeare's plays as *literary texts* AND *as scripts* meant to be performed

As literary texts:

To understand Shakespeare's artistic development (internal structure of plays, methods of characterization, conventions of genre, recurrent themes)

To demonstrate understanding of Shakespeare's vocabulary, syntax, and stylistic techniques (including a study of some of his sonnets)

To set Shakespeare's work in the context of the historical period in which he lived

To learn how Shakespeare transformed the sources he used

As scripts:

To learn what makes an action "dramatic"

To identify the tasks directors face and the skills actors must have

To understand the theatrical setting of Elizabethan plays and the differences in live performances in other venues, videos of stage productions, and film adaptations

To analyze the directorial interpretations of Shakespeare's texts embodied by specific performances

2. To become acquainted with the major shifts in Shakespearian scholarship in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*The Riverside Shakespeare: The Complete Works* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Films, in-class writings, *discussions*, *quizzes* and video showings can't be "made-up." Once these activities occur they are lost to you. Likewise, *your contributions are lost to us* when you are not here. ONE absence in a night class is equivalent to three missed classes. One absence is understandable. Two will affect your grade. You will have to provide written documentation if there is a third absence.

**DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:**

If you have a recognized disability that requires special consideration, please make an appointment to see me during the first week of classes so that we can discuss privately how I might help you succeed.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

You are expected to do your own reading and writing in this course. Any student who submits someone else's work as his or her own will receive no credit (0 points) for that assignment. A second infraction will earn an "F" in the course. Taking ideas from articles published anywhere *without citation* or copying work from other students is NOT acceptable behaviors.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Sept. 6 & 8: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* MAP

Sept. 13 & 15: *Much Ado About Nothing* MAP

Sept. 20 & 22: *Twelfth Night* MAP (Later in the semester we will see a live production of this play.)

Sept. 27 & 29: *In Search of Shakespeare* (Part 2) / PAPER on Comedy (Genre) due: Sept. 29

Oct. 4 & 6: *Othello* MAP

Oct. 11 & 13: *The Tragedy of Richard II* MAP

Oct. 18 & 20: Midterm Test / *Henry IV Part I* MAP

Oct. 25 & 27: *Henry IV Part II* / *In Search of Shakespeare* (Part 3)

Nov. 8 & 10: PAPER on the Histories (Theme: Power / Leadership)

**SUNDAY, NOV. 13:** Performing Arts Center at Northwest Missouri State 2 p.m. Student Production of *Twelfth Night*. We will get tickets at a reduced rate.)

Nov. 15 & 17: PAPER: Comparative Essay: Shakespeare in Performance (*Twelfth Night*)

Nov. 22: Staging *King Lear*

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1: *King Lear* MAP

Dec. 6 & 8: Sonnets

**FINAL EXAM:** Thursday, Dec. 15 2:00-3:50 p.m.

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