

ENGLISH 341/ THEATER 341: SHAKESPEARE

Professor: Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin Office: Eder Hall 215
Phone: 271-4274 Office hrs: By appointment
Email: sawin@missouriwestern.edu
Section 01 Time: 5:30-8:20 TTH Classroom: Murphy Hall 106

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Riverside Shakespeare: The Complete Works 2nd 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.

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.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

Paper on Sonnet	100 points	
Paper on Shakespearean in Performance	100 points	
4 MAPS of plays	100 points	
In-class ESSAYS / TESTS	100 points	
KING LEAR (map, summary, test)	100 points	
In-class writing/attendance/participation	<u>50 points</u>	
TOTAL:	550 points	(A=90-100% of total points; B= 80-89.75%; C=70-79.75%; D=60-69.75; F= 59.75% or less)

ASSIGNMENTS:

June 6 Introduction to the course.
In Search of Shakespeare: Early Youth Part I
Introduction to sonnets. Presentation and analysis of "Lo, as a careful housewife runs to catch"

- June 8 *In Search of Shakespeare: The Lost Years Part II*
Shakespeare's English (exercises)
Sawin's Notes on Shakespeare's Sonnets (from Hallett Smith's introduction in Riverside)
Additional handout on "Lo, as a careful housewife runs to catch"
For June 13th read 18 assigned sonnets (and, if possible, treat yourself to a reading of the entire sequence)
Select 5 of the assigned sonnets you like the most. Choose 2 you would consider analyzing for your paper.
Find one that you would like to memorize
- June 13 *In Search of Shakespeare: Part III*
In small groups, paraphrase selected sonnet.
Check out commentary on <http://www.Shakespeares-sonnets.com/index.htm>
For June 15 write the first draft of an essay in which you explain the growth in your understanding.
- June 15 In class: *Richard II*
- June 20 Over the weekend: Read *Henry V*: Do a MAP (written instructions given in class)
In class: Complete viewing of *Richard II*
- June 22 Catch up. Read Henry IV Part I (No map necessary)
In-class viewing of Richard Branagh's *Henry V*.
- June 27 LIVE PERFORMANCE of *Henry V* in Southmoreland Park, Kansas City.
Bus will be in the Library Parking Lot at 5 p.m.
Bring camp chair, water, and food if you like
- June 29 Revised Paper on Sonnet DUE.
Assignment on Henry V (Shakespeare in Performance) given: DUE July 6.
In-class viewing of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- July 4 NO CLASS
- July 6 Sonnet papers and Maps returned.
In-class mid-term test and essay on *Richard II* and *Henry V*.
Read handouts on (a.) political theory (b) political power (c) notes taken from Herschel Baker
Read introductions to both plays in our Riverside edition.
In-class: Shakespeare's theatre AND genre (Hilda Spear's site)
- July 11 Read *Much Ado About Nothing*. Prepare a MAP.
In Search of Shakespeare: Finish seeing Part III
- July 13 Read *Othello*. Prepare a MAP
- July 18 Essay Due comparing *Much Ado* and *Othello*: Comedy's Turns & Tragedy's Inevitable Paths
In Search of Shakespeare: Finish Part III and IV
- July 20 Read King Lear (Acts I and II) Prepare a MAP
- July 25 Read King Lear (Acts III, IV, and V) Prepare a MAP
- July 27 Paper on King Lear due / Performance of Sonnets

