

**ENGLISH 341/ THEATER 341: SHAKESPEARE**

Professor: Dr. Elizabeth L. Sawin Office: EDER 215  
Phone: 271-4274 or 271-4535 Office hrs: 12:30-1:30 (before class) or after class as needed  
Email: sawin@missouriwestern.edu  
Time: 1:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Classroom: Murphy 119

**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* 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 four-week summer class is equivalent to three missed classes during a regular term. One absence is unfortunate. Two will reduce your grade by 10%. With a third absence and a reduction of 20%, your passing of this course is unlikely.

**SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK:**

On Thursday June 11 our class on campus will be cancelled to allow for students' attendance at a live performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in Southmoreland Park in Kansas City. Students will arrange their own transportation to see the play on Thursday June 11, Friday June 12, or Saturday June 13. More information and directions to the park will follow. A two-page essay on Shakespeare in Performance will be due on Monday, June 15. We will prepare for this by discussing in detail possibilities for performance after we read the play.

**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 and *will be reported to the Chairs, the Dean's, and the Provost's office* according to current university policy. 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.

**CLASSROOM COURTESY:**

Please come to class prepared, on time, and with your cell phones off and with no expectation for sending or receiving text messages. If you have some unusual circumstance unfolding, please let me know about it.

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:**

MAPS of plays 80 points (*Midsummer, Merchant, Othello & either Hamlet or Lear*)  
Three brief papers 180points (June 8, June 15, June 22)

Tests/quizzes/individual report	100 points		
Attendance/participation	<u>40 points</u>		
	400 points		
A	B	C	D
100-90%	89-80%	79-70%	69-60%

N.B. I reserve the right to make changes in the nature of the work if need be.  
However, the percentages for the final grade assignment will stay the same.

### REQUIRED FORMATTING for out-of-class copy:

Identify yourself in the upper, right-hand corner:

Name  
English 341: Shakespeare  
Nature of the Assignment  
Date

Use regular white paper. Leave one-inch margins on all sides. Center the title.  
Number each page (bottom right) *if* more than one is required.  
Single-space within paragraphs.  
Double-space between paragraphs *if more* than one page is required.  
Use 10-point TIMES NEW ROMAN

## ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK ONE

- June 1 Introduction to course. ***In Search of Shakespeare, Part I***,  
Small group exercises on Shakespeare's language. Questions on *Midsummer* distributed.  
HOMEWORK: Read ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (256- 280) and construct a MAP of the play.  
Also read the introduction to the play by Anne Barton (251-255).
- June 2 In-class viewing of the Michael Hoffman's film adaptation of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***  
Handouts on Shakespearean Comedies  
HOMEWORK: Read General Introduction in *The Riverside Shakespeare*: "Shakespearean Heritage; Biographical Record; Historical Background; Linguistic Medium" (pages 1-11). Quiz.
- June 3 Class Discussion of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; ***In Search of Shakespeare, Part II***  
Questions on *Merchant* distributed.  
HOMEWORK: Read ***The Merchant of Venice*** (288-317) and construct a MAP of the play  
Also read the introduction to the play by Anne Barton (284-287).
- June 4 In-class viewing of Michael Radford's film adaptation of ***The Merchant of Venice***  
Class Discussion of *The Merchant of Venice*  
HOMEWORK: First brief analytic paper assigned. Due: Monday June 8.  
In *The Riverside Shakespeare* READ: "Stylistic Technique" (pages 11-14). Quiz

### WEEK TWO

- June 8 PAPER DUE. ***In Search of Shakespeare, Part III***  
HOMEWORK: Read ***Much Ado About Nothing*** (366-396).  
Also read the introduction to the play by Anne Barton (361-365).
- June 9 In-class viewing of Kenneth Branagh's film adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*  
Class Discussion of *Much Ado About Nothing*  
HOMEWORK: Read ***The Merry Wives of Windsor (324-356)***  
Also read the introduction to the play by Anne Barton (320-323.)  
And READ: "The Theatrical Setting" (pages 14-18). Quiz.

June 10 Class Discussion of how we would stage / perform *The Merry Wives of Windsor* BEFORE we see the live performance. In-class we will also visit online Hilda Spear's site on Shakespeare's theatre and do an on-line search of Shakespearean festivals across the country to determine which of his plays are being performed this summer.

June 11 NO CLASS this afternoon. HOMEWORK: Arrange to see *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in Southmoreland Park in Kansas City on June 11 or the 12<sup>th</sup>, or the 13<sup>th</sup>. Carpooling recommended. Picnics encouraged. Directions provided. Second brief analytic paper assigned on Shakespeare in Performance. due Monday June 15.

### WEEK THREE

June 15 PAPER DUE. In-class *In Search of Shakespeare*, Part III.  
HOMEWORK: Read *Othello* and construct a MAP of the play.

June 16 In-class viewing of Oliver Parker's film adaptation of *Othello*. Class discussion.

June 17 Next tragedy *to be determined* by class:  
HOMEWORK: *Hamlet OR King Lear*. ACTS 1&2 to be READ & MAPPED.

June 18 HOMEWORK: *Hamlet OR King Lear* ACTS 3-5 to be READ and MAPPED.  
Brief analytic paper assigned.

### WEEK FOUR

June 22 PAPER DUE. *In Search of Shakespeare*, Part IV  
HOMEWORK: In Riverside Shakespeare READ "The Artistic Development" & "The Continuing Impact" (pages 18-25). Quiz.

June 23 HOMEWORK: Read *Twelfth Night, or What You Will (437-477)* OR Read *The Tempest (1656-1689)* and construct a MAP of one of the plays

June 24 Classroom presentations by students on *Twelfth Night* or *The Tempest*.

June 25 Classroom presentations by students on *Twelfth Night* or *The Tempest*.