ENG 3892-099: Shakespeare, Honors
Melissa Caldwell

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Course Description

It is not an accident that many of Shakespeare's plays either directly involve wars or examine the consequences of war. Even one of the bard's most innocuous comedies, *Much Ado about Nothing*, begins with a festive pastoral scene abruptly interrupted by the return of soldiers coming back from war. An as recently as last spring, the British Library made available a speech handwritten by Shakespeare in which a character makes an impassioned plea for the humane treatment of refugees. Taking up the theme of war in Shakespeare’s plays this semester will allow us to look at some of the most pressing issues in Renaissance England and our own time: the relationship between personal ambition and social welfare; the benefits of good leadership and the dangers of tyranny; the role of the “average person” in politics; ethics on an individual and national scale; the way personal trauma affects not just an individual, but a relationship, a family, and a country. We will seek to understand why Shakespeare was so preoccupied with war, how these plays can help us understand the global political unrest that we face today, and whether or not we can view Shakespeare as an anti-war poet or not.

*Themes: Identity & Culture; Law & Social Justice; Genre, Form & Poetics; Media, Technology & Popular Culture*

Primary Learning Objectives

In this course, you will strive to

1. Enhance your ability to engage and understand early modern British ideas, language, and literary devices and genres in their cultural context

2. Hone your writing skills by developing papers and substantially revising them based on instructor feedback

3. Develop your speaking and listening skills by engaging in lively and thought-provoking classroom discussion and debate
4. Develop your understanding of seventeenth-century history and culture by learning about and researching historical and cultural context.

5. Become more skilled at using a variety of electronic resources that scholars use to research early modern literature, e.g., *Early English Books Online*, the *Oxford English Dictionary*, etc. and important websites for the study of early modern literature, e.g., the British Library, the Folger Shakespeare Library, et al.

6. Develop your sensitivity to the values and ideas of other cultures.

7. Be able to understand the dramatic form as written and performed.

8. Work to develop connections between ideas in the early modern period and our own time.

While intellectually very rewarding, Early Modern literature is rarely easy for the twenty-first century reader. I advise you to give yourself ample time to do the reading carefully and not to flinch when confronted by difficulty—and rest assured, you will be confronted by difficulty. In order to rise above this challenge, you should be a proactive reader: when you don’t understand something, re-read; consult textual notes, handbooks and the vast online resources at your fingertips such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* (available through Booth Library’s webpage), luminarium.org, or the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (to name just a few); pose questions in class; and by all means come talk to me during office hours. Class time will be devoted to discussing the political, religious, and intellectual context of our readings and to addressing both their inherent complexities and our own confusion.

Be advised: in order to succeed in this class, it is absolutely essential for you do the reading, attend class with your text in hand, be actively engaged in class discussion, and take notes. The material on the exams will come from class lectures and class discussion. Please use my office hours whenever you would like to discuss your papers or the works we are reading in the course.

**Attendance and Class Participation**

My attendance policy is simple: I expect you to attend every class. By attend, I mean not merely showing up as a warm body, but being intellectually present in the class. Bring your book; take notes; come with something to say and/or be prepared to respond thoughtfully to the matters that we discuss in class. After your 4th absence, I will lower your final grade by 1/3 a letter grade for each subsequent absence. If there is a reason why you must miss class for an extended period of time, you should consult with me early about your absences. I reserve the right to count you absent for behavior inappropriate and unbefitting a college classroom including, but not limited to, texting, chatting, or any irrelevant use of technology in class, reading materials irrelevant to class, repeated tardiness, sleeping, or any other behavior that is disrespectful to your peers.

*If you miss class on the day of the mid-term or final exam, you will not be permitted to make up the exam unless you can document an excused absence.*

**Assignments, Grade Distribution and Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Final Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response papers (4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Grade Range</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonnet recitation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textual and genre history exercise</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance history and analysis exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project and presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). The English Department’s policy on plagiarism states the following:

“All acts of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards.”

To put this another way: plagiarism absolutely will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism at any point in the semester, it is your responsibility to ask me about it before you turn in an assignment.

**Information for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583.

**Other Resources**

*The Student Success Center*

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

*The Writing Center*

You are always welcome to meet with me during office hours to discuss any writing issues. However, I also encourage you to use EIU’s Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from
any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

**EIU Writing Portfolio**

If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester. Please see me for advice on revising your essay before submitting it.

**ELA Students**

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English Department professors with a copy of the yellow "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach" before the end of the semester. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (CH 3821).

**Enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to the state of affairs outlined in this course policy and in the schedule of readings below.**

**Course Schedule**

The following is a tentative schedule; changes may be made to the schedule at any time and will be announced via email and/or in class as needed.

| Mon., 1/9   | The Conditions of Shakespeare’s Theater |
| Fri., 1/13   | Sonnets, 127-154 |
| Mon., 1/16   | MLK Day—No Class |
| Wed., 1/18   | Class performances of sonnets |
| Fri., 1/20   | Introduction to history plays; Richard II, Act 1; deadline to meet with Dr. Caldwell regarding semester project |
| Mon., 1/23   | Richard II, Act 2 |
| Wed., 1/25   | Richard II, Acts 3-4 |
| Fri., 1/27   | Richard II, Act 5 |
| Mon., 1/30   | Henry IV.i, Acts 1-2 |
| Wed., 2/1    | Henry IV.i, Act 3 |
| Fri., 2/3    | Henry IV.i, Acts 4 |
| Mon., 2/6    | Henry IV.i, Act 5 |
| Wed., 2/8    | Henry V, Act 1 |
| Fri., 2/10   | Henry V, Act 2 |
| Mon., 2/13   | Henry V, Acts 3-4 |
| Wed., 2/15   | Henry V, Act 5 |
| Fri., 2/17   | Lincoln’s Birthday—No Class |
| Mon., 2/20   | Richard III, Act 1-2; textual and genre history exercise due |
Mon., 2/27 Richard III, Act 5; performance history and analysis exercise due
Wed., 3/1 Midterm Exam
Fri., 3/3 Roman plays, Coriolanus, Act 1
Mon., 3/6 Coriolanus, Acts 2-3
Wed., 3/8 Coriolanus, Act 4
Fri., 3/10 Coriolanus, Act 5; prospectus due

Monday, 3/13 - Friday, 3/17 Spring Break

Mon., 3/20 Titus Andronicus, Act 1
Wed., 3/22 Titus Andronicus, Act 2
Fri., 3/24 Titus Andronicus, Act 3

Mon., 3/27 Titus Andronicus, Acts 4-5
Wed., 3/29 The People's Choice
Fri., 3/31 No class; Draft of research paper due

Mon., 4/3 The People's Choice
Wed., 4/5 The People's Choice
Fri., 4/7 The People's Choice

Mon., 4/10 Conferences
Wed., 4/12 English Studies Day
Fri., 4/14 All’s Well that Ends Well, Act 1

Mon., 4/17 All’s Well that Ends Well, Acts 2-3
Wed., 4/19 All’s Well that Ends Well, Act 4
Fri., 4/21 All’s Well that Ends Well, Act 5

Mon., 4/24 Presentations
Wed., 4/26 Presentations
Fri., 4/28 Presentations

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 3rd, 12:30-2:30pm

*ENG 3892 - Shakespeare, Honors. (3-0-3) On Demand. A study of representative comedies, histories, tragedies, romances. WI Credits: 3 Prerequisites & Notes ENG 1002G and admission to the Departmental Honors Program or permission of the Department chairperson.