Spring 1-15-2008

ENG 3802-001

Campbell
Eastern Illinois University

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Office hours TTH 9-9:30, 11-12:30, 2-3:30
T 9-9:30, 11-12:30, 2-3:30, R 8:30-9:30, 11-12:30
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Texts
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Henry V
The Merchant of Venice
The Tempest
Othello
Much Ado about Nothing
Sonnets

Reserve and E-Reserve Texts in Booth Library
Evans and Tobin. "Chronology and Sources."

Optional (But Fun) Reading
Smith, Sarah. Chasing Shakespeares
Greenblatt, Stephen. Will in the World
Shapiro, James. A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599

Course Focus
As we move through the early part of the twenty-first century, interest in the works of William Shakespeare shows no sign of abating. Shakespeare studies are still one of the most vibrant and exciting areas of English Renaissance literature, in part because Shakespeare had the good fortune to be a great synthesizer of the most popular trends in Renaissance literature, philosophy, and drama. This semester we will consider the Shakespeare of the English Renaissance, as well as the Shakespeare(s) of the present. Our primary goals will be to familiarize you with the categories of Shakespeare’s plays and to introduce you to the techniques that Shakespeare uses, the historical, political, and cultural backdrops to the plays, and ways of analyzing character, theme, and structure in them. Ultimately, this class is meant to prepare you to read Shakespeare on your own and to enjoy the plays in performance in an informed manner. To facilitate these goals, we will examine a few representative plays in great depth. Also, I will ask you to keep an eye on Shakespeare in popular culture and report your findings to the class.

Please remember that class participation is critical. It will include reading parts aloud on nearly a daily basis, and everyone should strive to have turns reading. It is a crucial first step to learning to “hear” Shakespeare’s plays.
Policies

--The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that any teacher who discovers an act 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 assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

--Hand papers in on time. If you’re having problems, let me know. Papers a week or more late without a university-approved excuse will not be accepted at all. Also plan to show up for exams. Again, if you have problems, let me know. You will have no more than one week to make up an exam, and the make-up exam will be different from the one given during class. In-class assignments may not be made up. Note: no assignments will be accepted in electronic form.

--If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

--Be prepared for class. You'll get more out of class discussions if you are participating in them, and I'll notice if you do not seem prepared to participate.

Requirements

Exam 1 ....................... 25%
Exam 2 ....................... 25%
Research Report .............. 15%
Oral Presentation ............. 10%
Paper ....................... 25%

The paper topic will be chosen from subjects that arise in class, regarding the assigned texts. You will use at least three outside sources from journal articles and books to support your arguments; other sources, such as internet sources of good scholarly repute may be used in addition to the three others. You will use MLA Parenthetical Style with a Works Cited page for documentation.

The research report will serve as a proposal for your paper. The report will address the topic, why you chose the topic, and the avenues of research that you chose to explore for this preliminary assignment. The annotated bibliography will consist of bibliographic citations of at least five sources with your notes on each work that describe the document, summarize why it may be useful to your project, and include possible quotations that you might use in the paper. You will use MLA style for this bibliography.

The presentation will be a 7-10 minute oral report over your research project, due near the end of the semester. After conducting your research, discussing your findings with me, and writing your paper, you will be able to present to the class what you have learned. The goal is to provide, via your and your fellow students’ reports, both a “big picture” look at the subjects we have covered over the course of the semester, as well as
introduce specialized information that you have focused on during your own independent reading.

Exams will cover course content. There will be a mid-term and a final.

**Tentative Schedule**

Th. Jan. 10—Introduction to Shakespeare: his life, works, techniques

T. Jan. 15—Introduction to the Comedy; begin *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Th. Jan. 17—MND

T. Jan. 22—MND
Th. Jan. 24—MND

T. Jan. 29—Introduction to the History Play; begin *Henry V*
Th. Jan. 31—HV

T. Feb. 5—HV
Th. Feb. 7—HV

T. Feb. 12—Introduction to the Problem Play; begin *The Merchant of Venice*
Th. Feb. 14—MV

T. Feb. 19—MV
Th. Feb. 21—MV

T. Feb. 26—Introduction to the Romance; begin *The Tempest*
Th. Feb. 28—Temp.

T. Mar. 4—Review
Th. Mar. 6—**Exam 1**

T. Mar. 11—Spring Break
Th. Mar. 13—Spring Break

T. Mar. 18—Introduction to the Tragedy; begin *Othello*
Th. Mar. 20—Oth.

T. Mar. 25—Oth.
Th. Mar. 27—Oth. **Note:** Research Report is due.

T. Apr. 1—Begin *Much Ado*
Th. Apr. 3—Ado

T. Apr. 8—Ado
Th. Apr. 10—Ado

T. Apr. 15—Semester summary
Th. Apr. 17—Oral Presentations. Note: Research Papers are due.

T. Apr. 22—Oral Presentations
Th. Apr. 24—Oral Presentations

Exam 2: Final, Tues., April 29, 2008, 12:30-2:30