Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 3802-001

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Dr. William J. Searle

English 3802--sec.001--11:00 to 11:50--MWF--CH310

Office Number: 314B Coleman Hall
Office Phone: 581-6375
Office Hours: 10:00 to 10:50 and 1:15 to 2:00 MWF and by appointment.

The following text is used for English 3802:


Attendance: Plan to attend every class. You might glance at pages 57-58 of the 1996-1997 catalog concerning this matter. Obviously, a student seldom does well in a course and never performs to his or her potential when he or she cuts class regularly. For that reason, I have established the following attendance policy. For every 5 unexcused absences, your final grade will be lowered one letter grade. If you have 10 unexcused absences, your final grade will be lowered two letter grades, etc. Late themes (and makeup exams, quizzes, etc.) will be accepted only in cases of extreme emergency--severe illness, official university activity, or other urgent reasons.

Departmental Statement on Plagiarism: "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 on the guilty student an appropriate penalty up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Grading: There will be two one-hour exams, each worth 20 percent, frequent reading check quizzes worth 10 percent, a final worth 20 percent, and a medium-length paper (6 to 8 pages of typewritten text) worth 30 percent, due during the second last week of class. In other words, a missed class is not a valid excuse for not being prepared on your return. Learn the assignment from a classmate or from your instructor. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accomodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

A Tentative Outline for English 3802

Wk#1--Mon. Jan. 13--Discussion of course and assignment of text; background lecture.

Wed. " 15--Video--Comedy of Errors or brief introductory lecture on comedy and discussion of Comedy of Errors, p. 79 in Riverside Shakespeare (RS)
English 3802

Wk#1--Fri. Jan. 17--video or Riverside Shakespeare

Wk#2--Mon. " 20--Martin Luther King's Birthday--NO CLASS
   Wed. " 22--Comedy of Errors -- quiz?
   Fri. " 24--Conclude Comedy of Errors, begin A Midsummer Night's Dream, p.217 in RS.

Wk#3--Mon. " 27--A Midsummer Night's Dream
   Wed. " 29--A Midsummer Night's Dream
   Fri. " 31--Much Ado About Nothing, p. 327 in RS

Wk#4--Mon. Feb. 3--Much Ado--video
   Wed. " 5--Much Ado
   Fri. " 7--Much Ado

Wk#5--Mon. " 10--As You Like It, p. 365 in RS
   Wed. " 12--As You Like It
   Fri. " 14--Lincoln's Birthday--NO CLASS

Wk#6--Mon. " 17--As You Like It
   Wed. " 19--Hourly Exam #1 (the comedies)--very tentative

Wk#7--Mon. " 24--Richard III --video
   Wed. " 26--Richard III
   Fri. " 28--Richard III

Wk#8--Mon. Mar. 3--Richard II, p. 800 in RS
   Wed. " 5--Richard II
   Fri. " 7--Richard II

Wk#9--Mon. " 10--If time permits, Henry IV, Part I, p. 842 in RS
   Wed. " 12--Henry IV, Part I
   Fri. " 14--Henry IV, Part I

Wk#10--Spring Break--March 17-21--NO CLASS

Wk#11--Mon. " 24--History Play Review
   Wed. " 26--Professional Conference--library assignment, NO CLASS
   Fri. " 28--Professional Conference--assignment, NO CLASS

Wk#12--Mon. " 31--Either Hamlet p. 1135 in RS Or Othello, p.1198.
   Wed. Apr. 2--Hourly Exam #2 (the histories)
   Fri. " 4--student conferences during the week, Hamlet or Othello

Wk#13--Mon. " 7--Hamlet or Othello --video
   Wed. " 9--Hamlet or Othello
   Fri. " 11--King Lear, p. 1249 in RS

Wk#14--Mon. " 14--King Lear
   Wed. " 16--King Lear
   Fri. " 18--King Lear

Wk#15--Mon. " 21--Macbeth, if time permits, p. 1306 in RS.
   Wed. " 23--Macbeth
   Fri. " 25--Macbeth , paper due

Wk#16--Mon. " 28--The Tempest, p. 1606 in RS.
   Wed. " 30--The Tempest
   Fri. May 2--Review and evaluation of course.

Final Exams--May 5 thru 9--(tragedies and romances)
Possible Paper Topics

The first day of class is too early to assign paper topics, yet some of you may wish to start thinking about them early in the term. The following is merely a list of areas of interest and does not pretend to be an exhaustive (or very specific) list. As the semester progresses, I will be suggesting other subjects, indeed more specific topics, to write about. Since the areas of interest are rather general, they will have to restricted and focused according to your interests and findings. In other words, restriction of topic and construction of a thesis sentence are your responsibilities. Of course, you are encouraged to create your own topics. All I ask is that you let me approve your topic several weeks before you actually start working on your essay. A brief talk with me may save you from bitterness and gnashing of teeth.

The essay should be of medium-length--6 to 8 typewritten pages of text--essentially critical in nature and based upon a careful reading of a work or works. Needless to say, your paper must not be a mere rehash of information discussed in class. Because of the limited nature of the library's resources, I am not requiring you to use secondary sources (articles in journals, chapters from books, etc.). However, in many cases, research and citation of secondary sources would inspire your own ideas and lend support to your work. Reading of secondary sources, in fact, may open up a whole new world for you. Of course, whenever you receive this "extra help," whether the ideas are paraphrased or copied word for word, you are required to document your sources appropriately. To "forget" to do so, as you know from English 1001C and 1002C courses, is grounds for failure on the paper and perhaps the course. The proper documentation form is found in the Harbrace College Handbook used in the English 1001C and 1002C courses. Copies are available in the library and in our Writing Center, room 301 Coleman Hall. The proper documentation form, the MLA Style Sheet, is found in most college handbooks.

Any criticism you decide to read should be put off until you have studied the piece thoroughly yourself. Then single out some aspect of the work to discuss in terms of the age which produced it and the contribution it makes to the craft of William Shakespeare. The paper is due Friday, April 25. Good luck!

--female characters in the comedies or in the romances
--a Shakespearean comedy vs. a Jonsonian comedy
--plot structure in Shakespearean comedy, romance, history or tragedy
--kingship in the history plays, romances, or tragedies
--Sex in Shakespearean comedy
--marriage in Shakespearean comedy or romance
--influence of the morality play in the Shakespearean history play
--the fool in Shakespeare's plays
--death in Shakespearean romance
the influence of the Shakespearean stage in a play or plays by Shakespeare
--fathers and daughters in Shakespearean comedy and romance
--the absent mother in Shakespearean comedy
--the play within a play in Shakespeare
--the influence and importance in the masque in Shakespearean romance
--the theme of friendship in Shakespearean romance or comedy
--the Shakespearean hero in a play not discussed in class
--the use or abuse of disguise in Shakespeare
--the Shakespearean play as a reflection of or comment upon current events in Renaissance England
--Shakespeare's portrait of history versus modern historical perspective
--comic elements in Shakespearean history or tragedy
--the use of satire in Shakespeare
--witchcraft or magic in a Shakespearean play or plays
--pastoral in Shakespearean comedy or romance
--the impact of Senecan tragedy on a play by Shakespeare
--Shakespeare's use of madness
--the adaptation of one of Shakespeare's plays to film
--fathers and sons in one of Shakespeare's plays
--Shakespeare's use of history
--Shakespeare's use of sources
--cross dressing in Shakespeare's comedies
--a detailed lesson plan for a Shakespearean play taught on the high school level
--a theater production of one act of one of Shakespeare's plays