Spring 1-15-2009

ENG 3892-099: Shakespeare

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English 3892.099: Shakespeare
Spring 2009

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Russ McDonald, The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare, 2nd ed.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January
14: Introduction to the Course
Romeo and Juliet

21: The Comedy of Errors

28: A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream, 1-4
Short essay due

February
4: A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream, 5; Much Ado about Nothing, 1-3

11: Much Ado about Nothing, 4-5; As You Like It, 1-2

18: As You Like It, 3-5; Twelfth Night, 1

25: Twelfth Night, 2-5

March
4: Othello, 1-2
Midterm exam

11: Othello, 3-5

18: Spring Recess

25: King Lear, 1-4

April
1: King Lear, 5; Antony and Cleopatra, 1-2

8: Antony and Cleopatra, 3-5

15: Pericles, 1-3
Last day to turn in draft of long essay for review

22: Pericles, 4-5; The Winter’s Tale, 1-2

29: The Winter’s Tale, 3-5
Last day to turn in long essay

May
6: Final Examination: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Course Description

“All the world,” says serious Jaques in As You Like It, “‘s a stage.” Shakespeare’s stages were many: the Theatre, the Curtain, the Globe, the Blackfriars, Gray’s Inn, the royal court. Upon their boards English men and boys dressed in the imagined garb of Greece, Rome, Egypt, Italy, Ionia, Illyria, Troy, Denmark, France, Bohemia, Austria, Cyprus, Antioch and Tyre, Navarre, Scotland, Wales, a desert island somewhere in the Mediterranean, and, yes, England. They played the parts of kings and queens, knights and gentlemen, merchants and craftsmen, clergymen and clerks, philosophers and teachers, sheriffs and aldermen, apothecaries and nurses, soldiers and sailors, servants and laborers, mothers and daughters, wives and mistresses, barkeeps, lovers, eunuchs, witches, fairies, grave diggers, actors, wrestlers, musicians, clowns, and perhaps, once, a bear. In this course, we will step softly into this world of Shakespeare’s creation, laughing and weeping as we witness the edge of his poetry and the magic of his imagination.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

- Short Essay: 10 points
- Long Essay: 30 points
- Midterm Exam: 20 points
- Final Exam: 30 points
- Participation: 10 points

Course Grade: A= 91-100; B= 81-90.99; C= 72-80.99; D= 65-71.99; F= below 65

Essays. Your short essay should be about 3 pages (~1000 words), your long essay about 10 pages (>3000 words). Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. Handouts will describe the assignments more fully.

Midterm Exam. An identifications/essay exam will encourage you to refine your thoughts and keep on schedule.

Final Exam. A comprehensive test will encourage you to rethink, organize, and articulate your understanding of the body of Shakespeare’s work.

Participation. This is not a lecture class. I expect you to offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion.

Course/University Policies

Typing. Your essay must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people’s words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities. "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."