
COURSE GUIDE FOR ENGLISH 332:

Shakespeare

Fall 2005 • 7:10-10:00 p.m. W • 100 Regents Center, Edwards Campus • Class # 29117

Instructor: Dr. Steve Evans

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our interests in this survey will focus on the following: Shakespeare's extraordinary development in terms of poetic language, art, and dramatic skills; knowledge of the Elizabethan, Shakespearean, and Jacobean stages; and broad thematic issues such as art vs. nature, illusion vs. reality, and "the praise of Order and the analysis of Authority"—what Kenneth Muir called "the thesis and antithesis of the Shakespearean dialectic." In so doing, we will come to an understanding of the myriad reasons why, in the most phenomenal period in the history of the English stage, Shakespeare's plays became, in the words of Ben Jonson, "not for an age, but for all time." Films of productions will be used to enhance appreciation of plays. **This course fulfills the Shakespeare requirement for the English major.**

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Bevington, David, ed. *The Necessary Shakespeare*. 2nd ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005. **Note:** This text and edition *only*.

An active KU (ku.edu) e-mail account (necessary for Course Distribution List mailings).

REQUIRED WORK AND GRADING SYSTEM

In order to pass the course a student must (1) successfully complete all assigned work; and (2) earn a passing grade on the Final Exam. Distribution of course requirements is as follows:

Daily Grade (10%)

Based on attendance, class participation, quizzes, and incidental writing assignments. Extra credit opportunities will be available in the form of brief oral reports or class handouts;

Essays (65%)

Students will write three papers of about four pages of text each. The highest of the three grades will be weighted 30%, the next-highest grade 20%, and the lowest of the three grades 15%;

Final Exam (25%)

The Final Exam will consist of two parts, each worth a total of 50 points: (1) *Objective*: definition of terms; matching/identification based on the plays; brief responses to passages from the readings; and (2) *Formal Essay*: a longer essay asking students to evaluate a number of texts in terms of major themes of the course.

Grades are calculated on an 11-point scale, with 11 points for an *A* and 0 points for an *F*. Evidence of improvement also will be considered in determining the student's grade for the course.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued enrollment in the course signifies a student's understanding and acceptance of policies, rules, and regulations set forth in this and other course documents.

The staff of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)—135 Strong Hall, 785/864-2620 (v/tty)—coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted SSD, please do so as soon as possible. Also see the Instructor privately with regard to this course. The Edwards Campus link on the course website supplies useful information as well.

Promptness: Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Except for a good reason, arriving later than five minutes will be considered an absence (see Attendance, under Policies, below). On the rare occasion when you must arrive late, please take your seat as quietly as possible.

Classroom Atmosphere: For our classroom to succeed as a learning environment, everyone must maintain the highest standards of behavior, including respect for and tolerance of others and their opinions and ideas. Try always, therefore, to maintain a spirit of intellectual flexibility. For obvious reasons, electronic communications devices must be turned off during class.

Academic Support: Most colleges and universities have writing centers, places where students may go to discuss their writing with trained peer consultants. At KU, we call our writing centers Writer's Roosts. Visit KU's homepage and link to the Writing Center for information regarding online writing assistance.

Contacting the Instructor: Please use e-mail or home telephone (before 9:00 pm). To explain an absence, discuss the matter in person with the Instructor. Note: The Instructor cannot discuss student matters with parents. The proper way for a student or parent to explain a serious illness or emergency situation affecting the student's attendance or performance is through services provided by the Student Development Center (22 Strong Hall; 785/864-4064). SDC

will provide an official letter of explanation to each of the student's instructors.

Website: The Instructor's teaching website (see p. 1) is intended to provide students with access to important course materials. Students are responsible for printing and bringing to class certain Study Materials for discussion. **Note:** Materials developed by the Instructor (as well as work by other authors included on the website) are copyrighted intellectual property and must be cited appropriately in papers.

Always save your work both to disk and your computer's hard drive. For your protection, keep a hard copy of out-of-class assignments as well.

Make it a practice to check your e-mail at least twice daily. Also, please send a brief note of reply to acknowledge your receipt of a *personal* message (not a CDL mailing) from the Instructor.

POLICIES

Incompletes: A grade of *I* (Incomplete) will be given only under extraordinary circumstances.

Attendance: Because the class meets only once per week, students will be allowed *one unexcused absence*. For each additional unexcused absence the student's grade for the course will be lowered one full letter. (Allowances will be made, of course, for unavoidable absences due to illness, conflicting University obligations, and other valid reasons.) Active participation in the course—in terms of *attendance, clear interest in learning the material, and class participation*—is mandatory in order for a student to earn a passing grade. **Note:** If excessive absences—for *any reason*—suggest that a student is unable to participate fully in the course, the Instructor may ask the student to withdraw and retake the course at another time.

Work in Acceptable Form: Essays must be wordprocessed or typed in proper MLA form. **Note:** Papers may be penalized as much as one full letter grade for problems of form—including vague title, improper handling of quotations, inaccurate Works Cited page citations, and more. The Instructor may not accept work that does not meet these criteria.

Late Work: Work is due at the start of the class period for which it is assigned. Plan carefully, therefore, in order to avoid last-minute computer or printer problems.

Assignments sent by e-mail are acceptable only under unusual circumstances (illness, for example), and *only with the Instructor's permission*. In other words, please contact the Instructor first for permission to do that.

Note: Work that is turned in late (unexcused) may be penalized as much as one letter grade for each class period that it is late.

Originality: *Plagiarism*—the willful or negligent use of someone else's thoughts or words without proper attribution—will not be tolerated. Any assignment that has been plagiarized will receive a grade of *F*; further penalties may apply depending on the situation. If you have questions concerning this important aspect of academic integrity, please consult the Instructor.

Note: The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. KU subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called *Turnitin.com* that may be used to check papers submitted in this course. You may be asked to submit your paper(s) in a digital format (e-mail attachment, *Blackboard™* digital drop box, or on disk) so that your paper can be checked against web pages and databases of existing papers. Although you may never have engaged in intentional plagiarism, many students do incorporate sources without citations; this program can alert your instructor to your academic needs. Please consider the use of the program as a learning tool for all of us.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Within the first two weeks of the course students are expected to study thoroughly Bevington's valuable General Introduction to *The Necessary Shakespeare*. Students also should familiarize themselves with the various components of the book. Entries listed in the Bibliography, for example, are potential resources for papers.

The reading assignment for the first class discussion of a play always includes Bevington's introduction to the play. Consult also the Instructor's online Study Materials for notes on plays and other matters.

Read the texts carefully for *detail*; knowledge of plot is assumed.

Always bring this Course Guide and your text to class.

- W 24 Aug.** Introduction to the course.
- W 31** *The Taming of the Shrew* (through act 2)
- W 7 Sept.** *The Taming of the Shrew* (finish); quiz
- W 14** *The Tragedy of King Richard the Third* (through act 2)
- W 21** *Richard the Third* (finish); quiz; **Essay 1 due** (*Shrew*)
- W 28** *The Merchant of Venice* (through act 2)
- W 5 Oct.** *The Merchant of Venice* (finish); quiz
- W 12** *The Life of King Henry the Fifth* (through act 2)
- W 19** *Henry the Fifth* (finish); quiz; **Essay 2 due** (*R3*; *Merchant*)
- W 26** *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* (through act 2)
- W 2 Nov.** *Hamlet* (finish); quiz
- W 9** *Othello, the Moor of Venice* (through act 2)
- W 16** *Othello* (finish); quiz; **Essay 3 due** (*H5*; *Hamlet*)
- W 23** **Thanksgiving Break—No Class**
- W 30** *The Tempest* (through act 2)
- W 7 Dec.** *The Tempest* (finish); quiz; course evaluations; explanation of Final Exam.
- W 14** **Final Exam** (regular class time)