

FALL 2008  
ENGLISH 340.01— SHAKESPEARE: LATER PLAYS  
PROFESSOR JENNIFER FEATHER  
TR 2:00-3:15; MHRA 1215

**Office:** MHRA 3110  
**Office Hours:** T 3:30-4:30, W 4:00 - 6:00 & by appt

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***Course Description:***

This course will focus on the later half of Shakespeare's career, especially the tragedies and romances, reading and discussing seven plays in depth. We will pay particular attention to how Shakespeare uses specific language to represent his social context and how the afterlife of these texts has influenced both Shakespeare's culture and our own. Your in-class participation will be a vital part of the class. Assignments will include informal speaking and writing assignments, a short paper, and two exams, a midterm and a final.

***Course Aims:***

This course hopes to:

- Develop an understanding of how Shakespeare's plays both produced and were produced by English Renaissance culture.
- Explore the impact of Shakespeare's plays on our own culture.
- Develop critical reading skills that will enable us to think analytically about the relationship between texts and cultures.

***Course Objectives:***

On completion of this course, students should be able to

- Discuss important issues in Shakespeare's later plays.
- Ask fruitful questions about texts.
- Articulate differences and similarities between Renaissance and modern culture.
- Develop an argument of some significance about a text.
- Support that argument with textual evidence.

***Course Requirements:***

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*The Norton Shakespeare: Based on the Oxford Edition.* Stephen Greenblatt et al.eds. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (Norton, 2008) is available at the bookstore. You may also use other editions of the plays (such as Riverside, Arden, and Penguin), but they should have sufficient notes and be reasonably modern. The best way to know if your edition will be acceptable is to speak with me.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

- Midterm 25%
- Final 25%
- Paper (4-5pp) 25%
- Participation in Class 15%
- Informal assignments 10%

**READING:**

You should Read Acts 1-3 for the first day, Acts 4-5 for the second day and complete your assignment (see “Informal Assignments”) for the third day. Part of the point of this course is to help develop a deeper set of reading practices. Reading is not simply a matter of gleaning information: you are reading to engage with the text not simply to master its content. As you read, you should ask and develop questions, analyzing both what you think the author's message is and how he uses specific language to convey that message. In addition, you should make note of important passages or issues you would like to discuss.

**INFORMAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

The third discussion day for each text will be taken up with your questions. You should email a discussion question no later than 5pm the day BEFORE the class discussion.

In addition to submitting questions about each play, I will occasionally assign supplemental coursework to help develop your understanding of the plays. I will grade these assignments on a check, check plus, check minus system. I will not accept these assignments late.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Class participation is a mandatory part of the course. If you find it difficult speaking in class, please come and talk to me about ways to enhance your participation in the class.

Your class participation will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- To what extent do your comments and questions indicate your understanding of the logic of the text?
- To what extent are your comments and questions rooted in specific textual moments?
- To what extent do you engage with the comments of other class members?
- To what extent are you able to ask questions that provoke a deeper understanding of the text?
- To what extent can you relate different texts to one another?

**EXAMS:**

You will have two exams – a midterm and a final. Both will be administered in-class. The midterm will be given on October 16<sup>th</sup> and will cover the first four plays we will read. The final will be given on December 4<sup>th</sup> and will cover the final three plays we read. No makeup exams will be scheduled except in the case of documented medical or personal emergency.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND THE WRITING CENTER:****Important Writing Instructions:**

- Use MLA style for all citations.
- All papers should be
  - Typed in 12-point Times New Roman
  - Have one-inch margins and page numbers
  - Be double-spaced
  - Be stapled
- I will not accept electronic copies of papers.
- Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date.
- Later papers will lose a full letter grade for each day they are late. Thus, I will not grade any paper that is more than five days late except in cases of documented medical or personal emergency.

**From the Writing Center Website, <http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>**

“The purpose of the Writing Center is to enhance the confidence and competence of student writers by providing free, individual assistance at any stage of any writing project. Staff consultants are experienced writers and alert readers,

prepared to offer feedback and suggestions on drafts of papers, help students find answers to their questions about writing, and provide one-on-one instruction as needed.”

I strongly encourage all of you to visit the Writing Center. Whether you are an expert writer or writing is more difficult for you, having someone else look critically at your work is invaluable. For instructions about arranging and appointment go to <http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/studentfaq.html#q4>.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

You must attend every class, arrive on time with whatever the assignment for the day is and your book, and you must stay for the duration of the class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact someone to find out what you have missed. Absences will affect your grade in the course as follows:

- You may miss class **three** times without penalty. You do not need to contact me about these absences.
- Your final grade will go down 1% for each additional unexcused absence. Absences will only be excused in case of serious illness or situations and only if you have discussed the situation with me **in advance** (or promptly thereafter in the case of an emergency). Contacting me is your responsibility.
- Arriving late to class, leaving early, or failing to bring your book will count as 1/3 absence.
- Missing the first two class meetings or three or more classes before October 2, will result in your being dropped from the course.
- If you miss more than **six** classes **BEFORE** October 17<sup>th</sup> (the last day to drop without academic penalty), I will drop you from the course.
- If you miss more than **six** classes **AFTER** October 17<sup>th</sup>, you will receive a WF (Withdraw/Fail) for the class.
- Keeping track of your absences and keeping up with readings and assignments is your responsibility.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Violations of the academic integrity policy will result in serious repercussions including failure on a particular assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or expulsion.

#### **Definition of Plagiarism from The Academic Integrity Policy (available at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>)**

“Representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise. Plagiarism may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. This includes submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including Web sites, as one's own work.”

If you have any questions as to whether a specific passage constitutes a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, I am more than happy to discuss those with you in advance of your turning in the assignment.

#### **TECHNOLOGY:**

**Contact:** The most reliable way to contact me is via email, and I will occasionally contact you via email. I check my email at least once a day, except over the weekends. However, you should not assume that I will catch your message the same day you send it. Allow enough advanced time to make sure I get your message.

**Blackboard:** I will place the syllabus and important course documents such as assignments on blackboard. If you miss class, you should be sure to check blackboard to see what you missed.

**Laptops and Cellphones:** You may **NOT** use laptops in the classroom except in documented cases of medical need. All electronic devices including cellphones should be turned off before class.

## *Readings and Due Dates*

### Week I

Tu Aug 26 Introduction – Responsibilities  
Th Aug 28 “Shakespeare’s World”

### Week II

Tu Sept 2 *Macbeth*  
Th Sept 4 *Macbeth*

### Week III

Tu Sept 9 *Macbeth*  
Th Sept 11 *Othello*

### Week IV

Tu Sept 16 *Othello*  
Th Sept 18 *Othello*

### Week V

Tu Sept 23 *The Tempest*  
Th Sept 25 *The Tempest*

### Week VI

Tu Sept 30 *The Tempest*  
Th Oct 2 *Anthony and Cleopatra*

### Week VII

Tu Oct 7 *Anthony and Cleopatra*  
Th Oct 9 *Anthony and Cleopatra*

### Week VIII

Tu Oct 14 *300* (Snyder 2007); Exam Review  
Th Oct 16 **Midterm Exam**

### Week IX

Tu Oct 21 FALL BREAK – NO CLASS  
Th Oct 23 *Two Noble Kinsman*

### Week X

Tu Oct 28 *Two Noble Kinsman*  
Th Oct 30 *Two Noble Kinsman*; **4-5pp Paper Due at the Beginning of Class**

### Week XI

Tu Nov 4 *Winter’s Tale*  
Th Nov 6 *Winter’s Tale*

### Week XII

Tu Nov 11 *Winter’s Tale*  
Th Nov 13 *Measure for Measure*

Week XIII

Tu Nov 18

*Measure for Measure*

Th Nov 20

*Measure for Measure*

Week XIV

Tu Nov 25

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

Th Nov 27

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week XV

Tu Dec 2

Exam Review

Th Dec 4

**Last Day of Class – Exam in Class**