

English 3304--Shakespeare
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Spring 2015
Office: MAB 114
Office hours: MWF 10-12; TT 2-5

Course Description: The course will introduce students to representative comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances of Shakespeare.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to

- Develop techniques to read and understand early modern English syntax and vocabulary.
- Recognize the conventions of comedy, tragedy, history, and romance as presented in Shakespearean drama.
- Understand historical and cultural aspects of the early modern period that influenced or determined portions of Shakespeare's work.
- Compare Shakespearean texts to film and stage performances of the plays.

Methods of Evaluation: Assignments will include Discussion Board posts, a creative exercise, a research project (paper approximately five typed pages long and a PowerPoint), and exams. Specific requirements for all assignments will be provided well before the due dates for the work.

Grading: Grades will be determined according to these percentages:

<i>Shakespeare Alive!</i> quiz	10%
Discussion Board posts	15%
Creative exercise/performance	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Research paper	20%
Research PowerPoint	5%
Final exam	20%

Late and Make-up Work: A student who misses a scheduled exam for a valid reason will have one week to make up the test. Written assignments that are turned in late will be penalized one letter grade.

Class Attendance: In Web courses, the attendance policy is interpreted as not participating for more than three weeks in a long semester, one week in a summer session, or three days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following: not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments, not participating in scheduled activities, not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

Texts: *The Norton Shakespeare*, 2nd ed. Norton, 2008. (Other editions are acceptable.)

Shakespeare Alive! Joseph Papp and Elizabeth Kirkland. Bantam, 1988.

Distance Education Policy: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments only through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Writing Assistance: Students with access to the Sul Ross campus can utilize the Writing Center in MAB 102 (TEL: 432-837-8270 or writing@sulross.edu for students at a distance). Excellent tutors are available to assist you with all your writing needs for the research project.

Shakespeare Alive!

Read *Shakespeare Alive!*, which provides background about Shakespeare and the historical and cultural period during which he lived. There will be an objective quiz over the book on **February 12**.

Practice questions will be provided, which you can access by clicking on the "Shakespeare Alive!" link above.

I recommend this film which covers some of the same material: *In Search of Shakespeare*, a PBS documentary narrated by Michael Wood, which can be watched in segments:
<http://libit.sulross.edu:3338/PortalSearch.aspx?pstid=20668>

The first two parts of the film may be most helpful; they are titled "A Time of Revolution" and "The Lost Years."

The Taming of the Shrew: Jan. 29--Feb. 5: Read *The Taming of the Shrew*

Definitions of *commedia del arte*, farce, and Shakespearean comedy will be provided in the folder above as well as information about the treatment of shrews during Shakespeare's time. Click on "The Taming of the Shrew" link to access this material.

Online students must post on the Discussion Board by midnight **February 5**.

A Midsummer Night's Dream: Feb. 10-17: Read *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Information about the midsummer holiday, fairy lore, and Robin Goodfellow (the Puck) will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Online students must post on the Discussion Board by **February 17.**

Much Ado About Nothing: Feb. 19-Mar. 3: Read *Much Ado About Nothing*

Information about puns, subplots, and fools and clowns will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "Much Ado About Nothing."

Film clips to view: Beatrice and Benedick Verbal Battle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQHenB-Xv-g> The gulling (tricking) of Benedick: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbF7LVDKEqk>

Online students must post on the Discussion Board by **February 26.**

Midterm Exam: March 5: The midterm exam will be given.

Richard III: March 10-24: Read *Richard III* (This is a very long play, so you will be able to read part of it during Spring Break!)

Information about history plays, the War of the Roses, and Shakespeare's villains will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "Richard III."

Online students must post on the Discussion Board by **March 24.**

SPRING BREAK : March 14-21: Spring Break (But you may still be reading *Richard III* if you have fallen behind.)

Hamlet: Mar. 26-Apr. 2: Read *Hamlet*

Information about tragedy, the tragic hero, revenge plays, and ghosts will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "Hamlet."

Online students must post on the Discussion Board by **April 2.**

Research Exercise: Prospectus: April 7: The research prospectus is due. Click on this link to obtain information about writing a prospectus:

King Lear: April 7-14: Read *King Lear*

Information about Shakespeare's source, animal imagery, and *hubris* will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "King Lear."

Creative Project: April 16: The Creative Project is due.

Macbeth: April 16-23: Read *Macbeth*

Information about Scotland, witches, and the relationship of the Macbeths will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "Macbeth."

Online students must post on the Discussion Board by **April 23**.

The Tempest: Apr. 28-May 5: Read *The Tempest*

Information about the genre of romance, white and black magic, and postcolonial interpretations of the play will be provided in the folder which can be accessed by clicking on "The Tempest."

Research Project: April 30: The research paper and PowerPoint are due. (Online students submit a PowerPoint; face-to-face students will give an in-class presentation, which may be based on a PowerPoint but could use other media forms.)

Final Exam: May 14: The final exam will be given.