

ENGL 425/525: Studies in Shakespeare (*Hamlet*)
Longwood University
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Smith
Office: Grainger B14
Office Hours: MW 2:30-4 (and by appointment---use e-mail below)
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Web Page: <http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net>
Class meets: MW 4-5:15 in Grainger G16.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will engage students in a close study of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, supplemented by an examination of the play's sources, critical reception, and stage and film history.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the Longwood University Bookstore)

- Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Arden 2nd series, edited by Harold Jenkins [ISBN: 978-0174434696] (Hereafter, Arden 2.)
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Arden 3rd series, edited by Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor [ISBN: 978-1904271338] (Hereafter, Arden 3.)
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet: The Texts of 1603 and 1623*, Arden 3rd series, edited by Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor [ISBN: 978-1904271802] (Hereafter, Arden Q1/F.)
- Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*, Methuen ed.
- Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Grove Press) [ISBN: 978-0802132758]
- Course reading packet.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- Two short papers, 4-5 pages each, 15% each.
- Final paper, 8-10 pages. 30%.
- Final paper presentation, 10%
- Final exam, 20%.
- Class preparation and participation, 10%.
- Graduate students will write a longer final paper (ca. 15 pages), and present one of their shorter papers orally in class.

POLICY MATTERS

It is essential that you read thoroughly and carefully. Underline passages you find especially beautiful or eloquent, or especially disturbing or confusing. You might find it useful to keep a reading journal in which you record your responses to the course readings.

Please arrive on time, and be prepared to listen, think, and contribute. Please turn off wireless phones, pagers, headphones, molecular phase inverters, and other electronic devices that might disrupt class. Please treat other students and your instructor in a civil and respectful manner. Note that classroom disruption is a violation of Longwood University's honor code.

The Longwood University attendance policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* will be the attendance policy for this course. You will receive an F on work missed because of unexcused absences. Your grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you miss 10 percent of the scheduled class meeting times for unexcused absences. You will receive an F if you miss a total (excused and unexcused) of 25 percent of the scheduled class meeting times. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate (as well as announcements about syllabus changes or other matters). Exams can be made up only under the most grave circumstances, and with documentation from an MD or a Longwood University official. If you foresee a conflict, I expect you to discuss it with me beforehand. Written assignments handed in late will lose one letter grade for each class day

late. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to the Longwood University Judicial system. For details on Longwood University's honor code and judicial system, direct your web browser to: <http://www.longwood.edu/judicial>.

Please submit all written work for this course to me in hard copy--e-mail attachments will not be accepted. You should keep electronic versions of any work you submit for this class, and the graded work I hand back to you, until after you have received your final grade. In case of inclement weather, continue to read the daily assignments, and check the course web page for announcements.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability should contact me privately. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office for Disability Services (103 Graham Building, 395-2391) to register for services.

Note: the syllabus may be changed at any time if necessary. The online version of this syllabus is the most current one—please check it at least once a week for changes and announcements.

CALENDAR

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| 11 Jan.: Course introduction. | 29 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 5. Also read Eliot, Reading Packet. |
| 13 Jan.: “The Hystorie of Hamblet, Prince of Denmarke,” from Belleforest’s <i>Histoires Tragiques</i> (Reading Packet). | 31 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 5, continued. |
| 20 Jan.: Kyd, <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> . | 5 Apr.: <i>Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> . |
| 25 Jan.: Kyd, <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> , continued. | 7 Apr.: <i>Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> , continued. |
| 27 Jan.: Rosenbaum, “Shakespeare in Rewrite”; Arden 2, pp. 74-82; Arden 3, pp. 8-13; Arden Q1/F, pp. 1-2, 8-12. | 12 Apr.: .Stage and film history. |
| 1 Feb.: The “Bad Quarto” of Hamlet (Arden Q1/F), scenes 1-8 of the Q1 text. | 14 Apr.: Stage and film history. |
| 3 Feb.: The “Bad Quarto” of Hamlet (Arden Q1/F), scenes 9-17 of the Q1 text. | 19 Apr.: Final Paper Presentations. |
| 8 Feb.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 1. Use either the Arden 2 or Arden 3 as your main text, but be aware of differences between Q2 and F as you read. Note also editorial emendations, and consult (and compare) the footnotes and editorial materials in both Arden editions (and don’t be afraid to consult Arden Q1/F). Also read Wright, Reading Packet. | 21 Apr.: Final Paper Presentations. FINAL PAPER DUE. |
| 10 Feb.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 1, continued. | |
| 15 Feb.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 2. FIRST PAPER DUE. | YLLFINAL EXAM: MONDAY, 26 APRIL, 3:00-5:30 p.m. |
| 17 Feb.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 2, continued. | |
| 22 Feb.: <i>Hamlet</i> , continued. | |
| 24 Feb.: <i>Hamlet</i> , continued. | |
| 1 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , continued. | |
| 3 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , continued. | |
| SPRING BREAK | |
| 15 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 3. Also read Freud, Reading Packet. | |
| 17 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 3, continued | |
| 22 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 4. SECOND PAPER DUE. | |
| 24 Mar.: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 4, continued. Also read Showalter, Reading Packet. | |