

**ENGL 365: Shakespeare
Longwood University
Spring 2012**

Professor: Shawn Smith
Office: Grainger B14
Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:00 (and by appointment---use e-mail below)
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Web Page: <http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net>
Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15, in Grainger G18.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to the works of William Shakespeare. In addition to discussing the themes and ideas that arise in these plays, we will spend a great deal of time exploring Shakespeare's linguistic and dramatic achievement by balancing close readings of the text with an awareness that Shakespeare's works are plays meant to be performed on a stage.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the University Bookstore)

- *The Necessary Shakespeare*, ed. Bevington (3rd ed.)*
- Optional: *Shakespeare A to Z*, ed. Charles Boyce.
- You should also have a good collegiate dictionary, and please acquaint yourself with the location of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (second edition) in the library at your earliest convenience.

*If you already have a good, annotated edition of Shakespeare (e.g., the Riverside or Pelican, or the complete Bevington), feel free to use it instead.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

[See the online version of the syllabus to access the hyperlinks below.]

- One 4-5 page [paraphrase and analysis](#) (.pdf) essay on a sonnet of your choice (15% of final grade). Use my [Poetry Explication Checklist](#) (.pdf) and [OED Handout](#) (.pdf) as guides.
- A 7-8 page final paper ([instructions and topics here](#)). (20%). (Graduate students will write a 10-12 page final paper that incorporates secondary literature; graduate students planning to teach are urged to write a final paper that deals with Shakespeare pedagogy in some way.)
- [A group performance project](#), which will be presented to the class and submitted in hard copy (15%).
- Midterm and final exams (20% each of final grade).
- Class preparation and participation (10%). Come to class prepared to discuss characters and episodes in the readings, as well as one thing from the readings you don't understand.

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 plays, lists of characters, and plot summaries. Shakespeare's plays are both thematically and linguistically complicated in a number of ways, and I encourage you to locate these complications and to engage the class in a discussion of them. Please consult the study questions on my web page and come to class prepared to discuss these questions.

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 regularly.

CALENDAR

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| 19 Jan.: Course introduction. | 19 Apr.: Final Paper due. |
| 24 Jan.: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream.</i> | 24 Apr.: Performance Projects. |
| 26 Jan.: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream.</i> | 26 Apr.: Performance Projects. Written portions of Performance Projects due. |
| 31 Jan.: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream.</i> | 3 May: FINAL EXAM, 11:30-2:00 p.m. |
| 2 Feb.: Come to class prepared to discuss the sonnet you're working on for your Paraphrase and Analysis Paper. | |
| 7 Feb.: 1 <i>Henry IV.</i> | |
| 9 Feb.: 1 <i>Henry IV.</i> | |
| 14 Feb.: 1 <i>Henry IV.</i> | |
| 16 Feb.: Paraphrase and Analysis Paper due. | |
| 21 Feb.: <i>The Merchant of Venice.</i> | |
| 23 Feb.: <i>The Merchant of Venice.</i> | |
| 28 Feb.: <i>Twelfth Night.</i> | |
| 1 Mar.: <i>Twelfth Night.</i> | |
| 6 Mar.: <i>Twelfth Night.</i> | |
| 8 Mar.: Midterm Exam. | |
| 20 Mar.: <i>Macbeth.</i> | |
| 22 Mar.: <i>Macbeth.</i> | |
| 27 Mar.: <i>Macbeth.</i> | |
| 29 Mar.: No class. | |
| 3 Apr.: <i>Othello.</i> | |
| 5 Apr.: <i>Othello.</i> | |
| 10 Apr.: <i>Othello.</i> | |
| 12 Apr.: <i>The Tempest.</i> | |
| 17 Apr.: <i>The Tempest.</i> | |