

Bardology (Introduction to Shakespeare)

English 2200 38960

TTh 5.30-8.20

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Office Hours Tuesday 9.30-10.30 and by appointment.

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Objectives

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with a cross-section of Shakespeare's work and help you develop the skills that make reading Shakespeare (and other works) easier. I hope that by the end of the course we will be able to enjoy the entertaining aspects of Shakespeare as well as the more profound and thoughtful elements.

Requirements

The work consists of regular close reading of the assigned plays, voluble, effluvious classroom discussion, and terse, vibrant written assignments. Your participation grade not only depends on speaking in class, but being prepared to discuss (including bringing your book to class), listening and responding to your peers, prompt consistent attendance, and participation in the course listserv. The written assignments are seven protocols, a computer project, ten quizzes and a term paper. Detailed descriptions of these assignments are below. We will also be meeting from time to time in the computer classroom (337 State Hall) to explore the possibilities computers and the internet offer for the study of Shakespeare.

Grading		Scale	
10 Quizzes	100 points	100-90%	A
7 Protocols	70 points	89%-80%	B
Computer Project	50 points	79%-70%	C
Term Paper	100 points	69%-60%	D
Participation	50 points		
Total	370 points		

Texts

I have put *The Norton Shakespeare*, on the list at Marwil Bookshop (on the corner of Cass and Warren). It is important that you get this edition because it is packaged with a CDROM that we will be using in class.

I also want you to have a three and one-half inch floppy disk (any format) that you will bring to class every day. You will use it for your computer project.

Attendance

I hope we'll be able to spend most of the class time talking among ourselves about the plays. It is important, then, that you make it to all the class meetings and arrive on time. Coming late is disruptive to discussion and especially to group work. If something does happen you must contact me, via phone, answering machine or email within 24 hours. Arriving more than fifteen minutes late or leaving before the end of class will constitute an absence. You are still responsible for what happened in a missed class. Because this course meets once a week, any more than three absences will result in failure of the course.

Late Papers

Late papers will lose five points per day until they are turned in. Any paper not turned in may result in the failure of the course. Faxed or emailed papers will only be accepted in emergency situations.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's ideas or words without giving that person credit. Any ideas or facts that are not your own must be cited using MLA format. This includes misuse of quotations, paraphrases and summaries. The penalties for plagiarism are failure of this course and potential suspension from the university. I expect that you have gone through this in your writing courses. If you have not or are unsure, please come see me rather than take a risk.

Listserv

A listserv is a discussion group that functions via email. Participation in the listserv is one of the class requirements. I will post a question for each play beginning on 15 May and you must post a response to the question or to a peer's response. You must post at least once a week. Therefore you must check your email at least once a week. You need an active email address to participate. If you do not have an email address you can get one from the C&IT Computer Lab in the Undergraduate Library. In order to subscribe to the listserv you must send a message to:

listserv@lists.wayne.edu

In the body of the message type:

subscribe Bardology your name

Do not put a subject on the message. Type it exactly as it looks above. Within twenty-four hours you should get a message confirming your subscription. You must reply to this message within twenty-four hours. If you are having problems, send me an email.

To post a message to the listserv, send the message to: **Bardology@lists.wayne.edu**

Or you can usually just hit the "return" button on your email application. Do not send me a copy of your post, I receive everything posted to the listserv.

An archive of the listserv is kept at www.wayne.edu/archives/bardology.html At this site you can see how often you have posted and catch up on any posts you may have missed.

Website

The course has a website that has the syllabus, calendar, and information about how to read and write about Shakespeare. Do check it from time to time. There are links and other helpful things on it.

Written Work

This course fulfills a Philosophy and Letters requirement. Part of this requirement is clear and accurate written and spoken communication. I expect that you have had at least English 102 and are familiar with the conventions of academic writing. For this course, all papers are to be typewritten, with one-inch margins, numbered pages, in a twelve point font, with your name, the date, the course and the assignment at the top of the first page. If a paper contains grievous mechanical, spelling, or typographical errors I will give it back to you for revision. You must turn the revision and the original in to me the next class meeting. Please do not hesitate to see me if you have concerns.

Quizzes

These will be unannounced, handed out at the beginning of class, and collected after fifteen minutes. Quizzes cannot be made up. If you miss a quiz because of absence or tardiness you will receive a zero. The quizzes will consist of five to ten short answer questions about the day's reading and/or about topics discussed in previous classes.

Videotapes on Reserve

Video tapes of all the plays we are reading are on reserve at the Undergraduate Library. You need to have my name, the course number and the title to request them. These are the BBC/Time-Life videos which were made for educational use. They are not commercial movie productions and are not valid for the review.

Extra Credit

You may earn ten points of extra credit by learning and reciting a soliloquy before a class meeting. A list of acceptable soliloquies is on the website. In order to earn all ten points you must inform me at least one class meeting before. The soliloquy does not have to be memorized, but it must be prepared and rehearsed. You must communicate to your audience that you know what you are saying. No impromptu or cold readings will be accepted. You may do this a maximum of twice. The last day extra credit soliloquies will be heard is 26 July. No more than three per class meeting.

Calendar

8 May	Introductions Reading Shakespeare, History of English Drama
10 May	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> Gender and Gender Roles Protocol 1
15 May	<i>Merchant of Venice</i> Early Modern Religion Protocol 2
17 May	<i>Merchant of Venice</i> Early Modern Genre
22 May	<i>Henry V</i> Protocol 3 History and History Plays
24 May	<i>Henry V</i> (film)
29 May	<i>Othello</i> Early Modern English Others Protocol 4
31 May	<i>Othello</i>
5 June	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Shakespeare and Poetry Protocol 5
7 June	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (film)
12 June	<i>The Tempest</i> Protocol 6 Biography of Shakespeare
14 June	<i>The Tempest</i>
19 June	<i>Hamlet</i> Protocol 7 Print and Publication
21 June	<i>Hamlet</i> Last Day of Class Computer Project Due
26 June	Term paper due in my office before noon. *Meet in the computer classroom, 337 State Hall.

Protocols

These are one to two page papers that respond to prompts from the given play. The prompts were selected because they address important ideas in the plays. In your protocol I want you to focus on and analyze a particular aspect of the play. The emphasis is on your own way of approaching the question and the play. The prompts should allow you to propose a thesis and support, as in a conventional essay. Avoid any sort of a qualitative evaluation, such as: "I liked it, it was good, it was bad, it was funny, it was tragic, it was difficult, etc." I expect to read your opinion, but that opinion must be illustrated with evidence from the play itself. Do not summarize the play! Assume that the reader is familiar with the play. You may (and should) quote, but only briefly. Do not try to address the play as a whole, there is not enough room in two pages. Focus on an element and discuss it in depth. If you can, relate the play to other plays we have read or ideas that have come up in discussion. These will get easier as you go through them. You may use them as a place to explore term papers ideas. My comments will tend to be general with the goal of asking you to think of the issues you raise in greater detail. If you are unsatisfied with your protocols please come see me. I am more than willing to preview them before you hand them in.

Protocol 1 *Romeo & Juliet* (10 May)

Compare and contrast Romeo and Juliet. What do they seem to value and what are they willing to forgo?

Protocol 2 *Merchant of Venice* (15 May)

Discuss the importance of Shylock's being forced to convert at the play's end.

Protocol 3 *Henry V* (22 May)

Examine Henry as a leader. Consult in particular how he deals with the traitors in II.ii and Bardolph and Williams later in the play.

Protocol 4 *Othello* (29 May)

Describe and evaluate the evidence the text gives for Iago's motivation.

Protocol 5 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (5 June)

Compare the characterization of the faeries with the characterization of the Athenians.

Protocol 6 *The Tempest* (12 June)

Discuss the role of Caliban in the play. What does he seem to represent?

Protocol 7 *Hamlet* (19 June)

Compare and contrast Hamlet, Laertes, and Fortinbras.