ENGLISH 190: SHAKESPEARE  
Professor Kathy Acheson  
HH 225  
Office hours: T/Th 2:00-4:00  
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DRAFT SYLLABUS

Welcome to English 190, Shakespeare. This course introduces the academic study of the works of William Shakespeare. It is designed for students in all disciplines but, like all English courses, emphasizes development of close reading, critical thinking, and clear, honest writing. We will study plays from each of Shakespeare’s major genres: comedy, tragedy, and history. I hope you’ll join me in learning more about the much beloved playwright and his works, and in developing the key skills of English studies.

The objectives of this course are for students to be better able to
• read and understand Shakespeare’s works in the language in which they are written;  
• offer accounts of major themes and concerns of the works we study;  
• frame interpretations of key topics in those works, using evidence from the plays to support arguments about the topics, and  
• write about their responses to, and understanding of, works of literature.

I have set up an ACE site for this course, and you should check it out. Both the essay outline and the essay itself are to be submitted electronically through ACE.

Text books

I have ordered four plays in to the Bookstore. They are all published by Thomson and are in a series called “The Arden Shakespeare.” You may use any scholarly edition of the plays we are studying. The edition must have line numbers, notes, and introductions to the plays. Please consult me if you are unsure about the quality of an edition.

The plays we are studying, in the order we are studying them, are:

1. Much Ado About Nothing  
2. Antony and Cleopatra  
3. Othello  
4. Romeo and Juliet

Rules

Late and illness policy: I will only accept late assignments, or schedule re-writes of quizzes, if you bring me a doctor’s note saying that you were unable to submit the assignment on the due date, or unable to attend a class in which a quiz was being held. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the day on which they are due.

In addition, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo requires that I include the following information on the course outline:
**Academic Integrity:** in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm)

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm)

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

**Schedule**

January 6: Introduction
February 5: *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act IV. Quiz #5.
February 10: *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act V. Diary #5.
Reading Week
February 26: *Othello*, Act II. Quiz #7.
March 5: *Othello*, Act V. Quiz #8.
March 26: *Romeo and Juliet*, summary. Quiz #11.
March 31: Course summary and exam information.
April 2: make-up class if necessary (i.e., if I have to cancel a class for some reason, we will use this day to replace it).
Assignments

Quizzes: We will have a 15-minute quiz at the beginning of each Thursday’s class. It will be on the assigned reading for the day. I will put up a passage from the play on the projection screen. You will answer the following questions:
1. At what place in the action does this speech occur?
2. What is the topic of this speech?
3. ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
   a. What is interesting or effective about the language and images that are used in it?
   b. How does it contribute to our sense of the character who speaks it?
   c. What philosophical or social issues are raised in the speech, and what does the speech say about them?

1 and 2 are worth one mark each, and 3 is worth two marks for a total of 4 marks per quiz. There are 11 quizzes, and I will take the best 10 marks that you have for a total out of 40.

Essay: You may write your essay on Much Ado About Nothing, Othello, or Antony and Cleopatra. The topic of your essay will be how love is depicted in the play you choose. You will submit an outline of the argument of the essay to me in the last class on that play. The essay will be due a week later. (For MAAN, February 3; for A&C, February 26; for Othello, March 17).

The essay will be four or five pages long and will present an argument supported by evidence from the play. It will have a thesis paragraph that outlines the argument, three or four paragraphs describing the main points of the argument, well-supported by evidence and clearly linked to the overall argument, and a conclusion.

The outline of the argument will be a rough version of the thesis paragraph containing some great ideas and showing how they are connected. You are to submit it electronically and I will get it back to you within two days with some comments to help you toward the essay itself. You are to submit the essay electronically as well.

If you miss the deadline for the outline or essay on MAAN or A&C, you can still submit your outline and essay on Othello. But if you miss that deadline and do not have a doctor’s note, you will get 0 on the assignment.

Diary: Each Tuesday we will spend the first 15 minutes of the class writing in our diaries. You may keep this on paper, or on your laptop if you bring one to class. The diary is a record of your responses to the reading for the day, or any thoughts you have about the play that we are studying. You can record notes towards an essay, things you want to talk about in class, questions you have, any feelings that are generated by the reading, ideas that you have that are related in any way to the play. The diary is not graded, and I will not read it. It is for your own use; the writing itself is an opportunity to reflect and to practice writing out your thoughts, and the re-reading of the diary periodically will remind you of thoughts you have had in the course of the term.

Final Exam: The final exam will have three questions on it. Two will ask you to comment on passages that are printed in the exam. You will have a choice between two passages for each answer, and I will provide some guiding questions. Each of those questions is worth 10 marks of a total of 40. The third question will ask you to craft an argument comparing two plays in response to statements about the plays or Shakespeare’s world in general. That answer is worth 20 marks of a total of 40. All three answers are to be written in good English, in full sentences, and using evidence where possible from the plays.