English 363
Shakespeare 2
Winter Term 2008

Tuesdays, 7-9:50
HH 280

Instructor: Dr. Mark Stephenson
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Course Description
This course will engage in a close study of six of Shakespeare’s dramatic works, post 1599. Emphasis will be placed upon understanding the plays in the context of their initial production (in very sense of that word) as artifacts of early modern English culture. Hence we will examine the plays in light of early modern conceptions of gender, race, class, and subjectivity in general, the emergence of print culture, the processes of England’s nation formation and its attendant conceptions of history and the historical, early modern discourses of colonialism, representations of monarchy, and the rise of the theatre as an arm of the nascent public sphere. Attention will also be paid to the play’s formal aspects: to their techniques of plot construction and characterization, to their employment of poetic language, rhetoric, and genre, and to their use of aspects of stage craft. We also consider our own 21st century, post-modern culture’s continued fascination with Shakespeare and his time, and reflect upon how his authorship and authority have functioned as powerful cultural forces down through the centuries.

Required Texts

Course Requirements
Essay 1 (Due Feb. 12; 1,000-1,250 words) 15%
Essay 2 (Due April 1; 1,750-2,250 words) 35%
Mid Term Test (March 4; 1 hour) 15%
Final Exam (Held during exam period; 3hrs) 35%

Late Policy
All written assignments are due in class on the due date. *I will not accept electronic submissions of written assignments.* Late papers will be docked 2% per day, including weekends; no paper will be accepted after two weeks (in the case of the second essay this may be even less, depending on when the final marks for the course are due). Extensions for assignments must be obtained no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the assignment is due. If you do not deliver your paper to me in class, you must drop it off in the English Department Drop-Box – *do not slip your paper under my office door.*

Films
We will be screening two films over the course of term; the exact locations of the screenings will be announced shortly. Attendance at the film screenings is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended. If you are not able to attend the screenings, it is your responsibility to view the films on your own time, as we will be discussing the films during class, and you will be tested on them.
Note on Avoidance of Academic Offences
All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult Policy #71 (http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. You may also consult the “Avoiding Academic Offenses” website at

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.

Course Calendar/Readings
The primary readings for the course are the six Shakespeare plays, as listed on the calendar, along with the introductions to each of the plays in The Norton. I will also provide a small amount of secondary materials in the form of handouts. Note finally that changes may be made to the syllabus as the course proceeds.

Week 1
Tues. Jan. 8 General Introduction to the Course; “A Brief Overview of Critical Approaches to Shakespeare”;
Introduction to Shakespeare post 1599 and Hamlet

Week 2
Tues. Jan. 15 Hamlet

Week 3
Tues. Jan. 22 Hamlet

Week 4
Tues. Jan. 29 Measure for Measure

Week 5
Tues. Feb. 5 Measure for Measure/ Timon of Athens

Week 6
Tues. Feb. 12 Timon of Athens ESSAY #1 DUE

Week 7
Feb. 18-22 Reading Week – No Classes

Week 8
Film: Monday, Feb. 25: Macbeth (1971, dir. Roman Polanski)
Tues. Feb. 26 Macbeth MIDTERM TEST
Week 9
Tues. March 4  *Macbeth*

Week 10
Tues. March 11  *Cymbeline*

Week 11
Tues. March 18  *Cymbeline*

Week 12
Tues. March 25  *The Tempest*  ESSAY #2 DUE

Week 13
Tues. March 1  *The Tempest*/Conclusion and Exam Review

Classes end April 7
Final Exam During Exam Period