ENGLISH 363: SHAKESPEARE 2

Robert Irish
Office Hours: T 10:00-11:00, 1:00-2:00, Th 1:00-2:30

WINTER 1994

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 363 focuses on the plays of Shakespeare written after 1599. The aim of this course is to examine the achievement of Shakespeare in the second part of his career as a dramatist through close study of a selection of his plays. We will examine Shakespeare's use of genre, of gender, of dramatic dialogue, of history, of stage craft and of his cultural milieu. We will also consider how Shakespeare appeals to his audience (in his time and ours). In general, the course should lead to a deeper appreciation of the art of Shakespearean drama.

The following works will be studies in the order they are listed:

Twelfth Night  
Merry Wives of Windsor  
Hamlet  
Troilus and Cressida  
All's Well that Ends Well  
Measure for Measure  
Othello  
King Lear  
The Tempest  
Anthony and Cleopatra  
The Winter's Tale  
(The last two as time permits)

TEXT

The Complete Pelican Shakespeare. Gen. ed. Alfred Harbage (Viking) is available in the bookstore though individual copies are also acceptable. (Those considering graduate studies may wish to invest in Arden or Oxford editions).

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Optional Mid-term: a one-hour in-class essay on Tuesday 1 March. Before reading week, four topics will be distributed. Two of those four will appear on the test. Students will be asked to write on one of those two topics. Grade Value 20%.

2. Essay: 10-12 double-spaced typed pages (2500-3000 words). Suggested topics will be distributed to the class. Students are welcome to propose topics of their own but should have them approved by the instructor. Due: Tuesday 29 March. Grade Value 50%.

3. Final Examination: scheduled in examination period. Covers all course work. Includes identification and discussion of selected passages and essay questions. Those who write the mid-term will not have to answer the second part of the final exam. (However, a student who does poorly on the mid-term may choose to write the second part to improve his/her grade). Grade Value 50% for those who do not write the mid-term, or 30% for those who do write the midterm.

Thus, the final grade will be determined either on the basis of an essay (worth 50%) and a final examination (worth 50%), or on the basis of a mid-term test (20%), an essay (50%), and a final examination (30%).

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Non-Shakespearean Plays that are relevant and important:

Ben Jonson, The Alchemist (City Comedy)
-----, Volpone (Comedy)
John Marston, The Malcontent (Disguised Duke Comedy)
Thomas Middleton, A Chaste Maid in Cheapside (City Comedy)
-----, Women Beware Women (Tragedy)
Thomas Middleton and William Rowley The Changeling (Tragedy)
Cyril Tourneur, The Revenger's Tragedy
John Webster, The Duchess of Malfi (Tragedy)
-----, The White Devil. (Tragedy)
Secondary Works on Shakespeare
Jean E. Howard, Shakespeare's Art of Orchestration.
J.L. Styan, Shakespeare's Stagecraft