

**English 3392.01**  
**Studies in Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances**  
**Spring, 2018**

**Professor:** Dr. Douglas Krienke  
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**1. Course Description:**

The purpose of English 3392 is to read and discuss a number of Shakespeare's comedies and romances, from the early years of his career to the festive comedies of the 1590s, from the so-called "dark comedies" of the 1600s to the romances which he wrote in the last years of his career.

**2. Course Objectives:**

- 1) To study how Shakespeare manipulated the various connections and structures of comedy to create quite different effects in each of his plays.
- 2) To investigate the historical and cultural backgrounds of his plays as well as an awareness of recurrent motifs in the plays.
- 3) To analyze and evaluate the philosophical insights of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.
- 4) To discuss the recurrent themes and common concerns of Shakespeare's plays.
- 5) To develop the mindset that probes the religious, social, and political culture for the production of literature, especially DRAMA.
- 6) To become familiar with Early Modern English playwrights (Shakespeare) and plays from a variety of genres.
- 7) To gain an understanding of the historical and social context for English drama c. 1580-1642.

**3. Text:**

Shakespeare, William. Complete Works 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. David Bevington. Boston: Pearson Education, 2014.

**4. Course Requirements:**

- 1) Reading assignments and writing prompts will be given over the readings and background. These assignments are announced in class. These assignments will be averaged and evaluated as a major grade. No make-ups will be given; however, the lowest grade will be dropped for each student.

- 2) 3 major examinations will be given in class. These examinations will require writing about the material as well as analysis of the plays studied.
- 3) A **comprehensive** final examination will be given during the assigned final period.
- 4) Consideration will be given for class participation and discussion.

### **5. Student Learning Outcomes:**

An educated person understands what it means to be human and what the human condition is. The purpose of the study of humanities is to explore the range of human thought and experience – achievements and failures, joys and sorrows, comedy and tragedy, life and death. It should challenge students to understand and evaluate how others, past and present, historical and fictional, have struggled with these issues. A course meeting liberal arts requirements in humanities is designed to enable students to:

- 1) Confront basic questions about reality, knowledge, goodness, justice, and beauty;
- 2) Examine critically how great writers and thinkers have addressed these questions;
- 3) Ponder these questions as they apply to their own lives and times;
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to recognize Shakespeare's development as a writer and his deserved, prominent place in the evolution of Western literature; and
- 5) Judge the universality of Shakespeare's plays and judge their value to contemporary society.

### **6. Selected Readings:**

- 1) A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 2) As You Like It
- 3) Twelfth Night
- 4) The Merchant of Venice
- 5) Measure for Measure
- 6) The Tempest
- 7) Selected Shakespearean Sonnets

### **7. Absence Policy:**

The University bulletin stresses the importance of punctuality and "regular" attendance. In order to adhere to their guidelines, I have adopted the following absence policy for my classes:

- 1) A student is allowed four (4) absences during the semester without any penalty being imposed. (This absence without penalty does not apply to any work missed).
- 2) If a student misses five (5) meetings during the session, the student may be penalized three (3) points.

- 3) After a student misses six (6) classes during the semester, he or she may not receive credit for the course.
- 4) If a student has maintained a perfect attendance for the entire session, he or she will have three (3) points added to the final grade in the course.

### **8. Grading System:**

All grades are based on a 100 point scale: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F. All work must be completed and turned in on time or you fail by default.

Your final course grade will be calculated and averaged as follows:

- 1) Average of reading assignments and writing prompts will be 1 component
- 2) 3 major exams will be 3 components
- 3) Comprehensive Final examination that is to be evaluated as 2 major grades

I add the grade of each component and divide by the total number of components to determine your final grade. The last consideration given for grade distribution is to include points for perfect attendance or to subtract points for lack of attendance.

### **9. Classroom Decorum:**

No cell phones or electronic communications devices may be used without permission. No disruption (behavioral, electronic, or otherwise) of class is acceptable. No texting in class. Be courteous and respectful of others. Be punctual in class attendance.

### **10. Plagiarism:**

Should you have any questions about handling source material for your writing, consult the MLA guidelines, your instructor, and/or a tutor. Evidence of plagiarism results in a grade of F.

### **11. Tutoring:**

For free assistance on any of the writing requirements for this course, visit the Writing Center in Farrington 111. Check online to determine specific hours of operation during the current term. (It is generally open mornings through early evenings, Monday through Thursday, and mornings through early afternoon Friday.)

### **12. Late Papers:**

If a paper is not to be submitted on time, you must formally request an extension from the professor. No final drafts of papers may be submitted via email. All submissions must be given directly to the professor, so do not leave papers in mailboxes, under office doors, with a secretary, etc.

### **13. Special Accommodations:**

Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the Counseling Center at the beginning of each semester. For more information, contact the disability counselor.

## **University Policies**

### **14. Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex (tel. 936.294.1720). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

### **15. Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

### **16. Visitors in the Classroom**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible

persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

### **17. Instructor Evaluations**

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.