ENGLISH 363: Winter 2014

On the Outside Looking In:
Shakespeare’s Marginal Peoples

TIME: MTWR 2:00 - 3:40

TEXT: THE NECESSARY SHAKESPEARE (available in the bookstore), or other, good annotated editions, for example Riverside, Arden or Signet.

Prof. Laila Abdalla    Office LL 102J    Phone 3533
Hours T 12:00-2:00 & by appointment.

Aims of Course

This course is a general introduction to Shakespeare’s drama as well as a more focused exploration of his ideas about individuals and groups of people who were considered to be outside of the “norm” at the time. We will look at a variety of aspects, for example, the role of the poor, of women, of men and women who hold certain professions, and of men of “foreign” ethnicities; we will also explore the pressures placed on these people who are considered socially most established, typically white, upper-class, wealthy males. During the course we will also discuss many other topics and themes that interested Shakespeare and the early modern period. The course is designed to acquaint you with the Renaissance intellectual, historical and cultural background against which Shakespeare was writing, as well as to provide you with an in-depth understanding of specific plays. We will study two main genres: comedy and tragedy. Our primary goals are to understand and analyze the individual plays, but we will also seek to develop a broader comprehension of such elements as Shakespeare’s themes, concerns, conceptions of the human subject etc. The final objective is your independent ability to decipher and appreciate Shakespeare in the future. Course format will be lectures, discussions, and presentations.

Participation / Attendance: 05%
3 Quizzes: 10% (See schedule)
Group Presentation + Handout (4pp): 20% (See “Pres. & Disc.” on schedule)
Midterm (Shrew + Merchant): 20% 12 May
Prospectus for Final Essay (2 pp) 10% Due in class, 28 May
Test (Othello): 10% 4 June
Final Research Essay (6pp. min.): 25% Due noon, Monday, 9 June
Via Canvas Turnitin
CAUTION: YOUR PRESENTATION AND FINAL PAPER HAVE TO BE ON DIFFERENT TOPICS AND MANILY DIFFERENT PLAYS
REMEMBER TO KEEP COPIES OF YOUR PAPERS – YOU MAY WANT TO REVISE THEM FOR YOUR SENIOR COLLOQUIUM
The above minimum-page requirements do NOT include notes or Works Cited etc.
*** You must complete all components of the evaluation to pass this course***

Extension Policy
NO EXTENSIONS, for paper, exams, OR quizzes, (even if they are moved from their set dates) unless you have a doctor’s note or something of that ilk. You must complete all components of the evaluation to pass the course, including attendance (see Absenteeism Policy). If all your assignments are not fulfilled by the last day assigned, and you have a compelling case, we can discuss an Incomplete.

Absenteeism Policy
Because we meet only twice a week, you are allowed 1 missed day of classes without any penalties. A second missed day loses you 2%, and after that, each missed class loses you an additional 3% of your final grade. If you miss a total of 4 classes or more, you will fail the class, regardless of your grades in the other components.

Disability Policy
Please let me have your ADA or similar paperwork very early during the quarter so that we can discuss how I can accommodate your needs.

Class Conduct Policy
You are encouraged to be passionate about your beliefs but also to be open to the prospect of examining them. This classroom is inclusive to a variety of opinions and ideas, but it will not tolerate any form of discrimination, be it against age, gender orientation, sexual preference, political affiliation, professional commitment, or anything else.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is using other people’s ideas or words, whether deliberately or unknowingly, without properly crediting them. It is up to you to be vigilant against plagiarism. If you attempt to pass off someone else’s work (whether it’s William Shakespeare’s, an anonymous writer’s essay posted on the Internet, or your roommate’s brother’s friend, Bob) you will fail the course and be reported to the appropriate authorities within the University. Turnitin is designed to “bust you,” in that it detects plagiarism for ideas in a sequence as much as any lifted language.
Evaluation Scheme
In this course you will normally receive a numerical (usually a percentage) AND a letter grade for each piece of work. At the end of the quarter all the number grades are added together to produce a final percentage. This percentage is then granted as a grade for your transcripts.

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<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>85 - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>62 - 64%</td>
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<td>65 - 69%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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So, student L’il Ham gets a B-, 65% for his class presentation. 65% of 20% (because 20% is what the presentation is worth) is 13. (65 / 100 = 13 / 20). The Grades page in Canvas now shows B- (13) for L’il. Keep an eye on the grade category entitled “Total” to know how you’re doing overall in the course.

Reading List
The Taming of the Shrew
Merchant of Venice
Othello

IF YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE, MAKE SURE IT IS TURND OFF BEFORE COMING TO CLASS. EACH TIME ONE GOES OFF IN CLASS ...
THOU SHALT RUE THE DAY
Do not study or write papers for other courses, text-message, or do other things of this nature in class. If you do, I will give you an “absent” for the day, and you know the absenteeism policy.

The Student Learner Objectives for this course are that upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- Explain the way that Shakespeare’s works can be analyzed against the Renaissance intellectual, historical, and cultural background;
- Identify and discuss Shakespeare’s themes, concerns, and conceptions of the human subject;
- Identify key elements of the genres Shakespeare wrote in, including comedy, tragedy, and “problem play”;
- Interpret and analyze individual plays.