ENGLISH 363: Spring 2015

Power, Empower, and Disempower: The Self and the Other in Shakespeare

TIME: MW 2:00 - 3:40   PLACE: LL 307
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 1:00-3:00 & by appointment.

Aims of Course
This course is a general introduction to Shakespeare’s drama, as well as a focused exploration of his ideas about some of the notions of power that existed during his era. We will look at a variety of aspects, for example, the authority of the ruling elite, the enablement of self-knowledge, and the power-relations between groups of people, e.g. men and women, or Church authorities and the laity. We will also explore the pressures placed on these people who are considered socially most powerful, typically white, upper-class, wealthy males. In the process 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 three main genres: comedy, problem play, 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 (AYL + MM): 20% 11 May
Prospectus for Final Essay (2 pp) 10% Due in class, 27 May
Test (Othello): 10% 3 June
Final Research Essay (6pp. min.): 25% Due noon, Wednesday, 10 June
Via Canvas Turnitin
CAUTION: YOUR PRESENTATION AND FINAL PAPER MUST 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.

85 - 100% A 62 - 64% C+
80 - 84% A- 58 - 61% C
75 - 79% B+ 55 - 57% C-
70 - 74% B 52 - 54% D
65 - 69% B- 0 - 51% F

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

As You Like It  Measure for Measure
Othello

IF YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE, MAKE SURE IT IS TURNED 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.
Prof. Laila Abdalla  Shakespeare: *Power, Empower, Disempower*  ENG 363

**COURSE FLIGHT ITINERARY**

**April**  
Wed. 1 Intro. to Course & Background  
Mon. 4 MM  
Wed. 6 Pres. & Disc.: MM

**May**  
Mon. 6 Intro. to Shakespeare & Comedy  
Mon. 11 MIDTERM: AYL/MM  
Wed. 8 Quiz: *As You Like It*  
Wed. 13 Intro to Tragedy +  
*Othello*

Mon. 13 AYL  
Mon. 18 Quiz: *Othello*  
Wed. 15 AYL  
Wed. 20 *Othello*  
Discussion of Prospectus Assignment

Mon. 20 Pres. & Disc.: AYL  
Mon. 25 Mem Day: No Class  
Wed. 22 Intro to Problem Play +  
Wed. 27 *Othello*  
*Measure for Measure*  
Prospectus Due, in class

**JUNE**  
Mon. 27 Quiz: MM  
Mon. 1 Pres and Disc *Othello*  
Wed. 29 MM  
Wed. 3 Test: *Othello*

**June 10, noon:** Final Paper due. Submit via Canvas.

This timetable is but tentative. We may have to make changes. Expect to be flexible!