

E 321 (UNIQUE #34650) TTH Spring 2010

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Office Hours: Tues. 4-5:30, by
appointment & other times, by
appointment.

Required Texts

Richard II (Arden, 2002, ed. Forker)
Henry V (Oxford, 1982, ed. Taylor)
Midsummer Night's Dream (Bedford, 1999, ed. Paster & Howard)
Twelfth Night (Arden, 2008, ed. Elam)
Hamlet (Longman, 2005, ed. Jordan)
Othello (Cambridge, 2003, ed. Sanders)
The Merchant of Venice (Longman, 2005, ed. Danson)
Measure for Measure (Bedford, 2004, ed. Kamps & Raber)

Additional required texts and movie clips will be available through the Blackboard course site. (You may use any scholarly, annotated edition of the Shakespeare plays, and you may purchase them from any vendor. The editions ordered from the University Coop are noted above.)

Web Site

Class materials, announcements, sign-up sheets, film clips, and some required texts will be posted on the course BlackBoard site: <http://courses.utexas.edu>. **Please check this site regularly!** You will be responsible for any information posted on this site.

Course Description

In "Terministic Screens," Kenneth Burke notes "Even if any given terminology is a reflection of reality, by its very nature as a terminology it must be a selection of reality; and to this extent it must function also as a deflection of reality." He refers generally to the rhetorical framework of this selected reality as a "terministic screen."

This course examines a number of Shakespeare's plays through a selection of "terministic screens" or interpretive viewpoints. How, for instance, does the generic designation of "history," "tragedy," or "comedy" shape the way the plays are read, understood, and produced? How do understanding and performance change when we shift from a generic focus to interpretive viewpoints that privilege other terminologies (or ideologies) such as history, gender, family, patriotism, religion, or entertainment?

Grading Summary

A description of the assignments is in a separate section below. Your final grade will be a composite of the following:

Exams (2 @ 25% each)
Group presentation project (20%)
In-class writing (10%)
Class participation (20%)

Classroom Expectations

- **REQUIRED READINGS.** All assigned texts should be read completely by the first day for which they're assigned. You should count on reading most of the assigned readings more than once. You can generally use any editions you wish of the texts I've assigned, but be sure to buy properly annotated editions. Bring the relevant books to class every day.
- Group discussion will be very important to this class.
- All assigned work must be completed.
- To pass the course you must complete all assignments. Late work will receive a one-half grade point penalty, and will not be accepted (reverting to 0.0) after one week past the final due date. **Graded work must engage the critical framework and issues that have been central to the class discussions and presentations *in this particular class*.**

Class Attendance

Regular attendance is expected. You get three free absences; above that you'll be penalized substantially (see class participation, below). Three absences will result in an "absence and failing report"; four absences will result in the lowering of the course grade; more than seven absences will result in a grade of "F" for the course. **Medical excuses require official documentation within a week. If you arrive late it's your responsibility to get signed in immediately after class; no alterations or corrections after class from memory will be allowed. (Adjustment will be made for individual late enrollment.)**

Description of Assignments

1. Exams – There will be one in-class, sixty minute exam and one take-home exam. On the first exam (in-class), students will be asked to identify and comment on the significance of passages from the plays and other assigned readings from the course. The second (take-home) exam will require students to present and defend an interpretive argument that engages multiple plays. The take-home exam will be turned in electronically through Safe Assign, a plagiarism prevention tool in Blackboard.

2. Group presentation project – Students will be required to participate in a 15-20 minute presentation that explicates a given scene or a particular aspect of one of the plays through the lens of a given interpretive viewpoint. The presentation must also address the ways in which the particular viewpoint limits the interpretation or production of the play. Each student must submit an individually written three-page summary of the presentation s/he participates in. Creativity in presentation format is encouraged.

3. In-class writing – In-class writing assignments will help students prepare for the exams and discussions (in a comparatively low-stakes context). Most in-class writing assignments will be unannounced; all will be short (no more than 15 minutes of class time). Examples of in-class writing assignments include short written responses to a particular passage from a play or assigned reading, a written response to a particular study question or film clip, or written response to a subject immediately under discussion. There will be no fewer than four in-class writing assignments, but there may be more, depending on the response and rhythms of this particular class.

4. Class Participation –

- Quizzes - 90% of the class participation grade will be based on quiz averages. (Unless you have 5 or more absences; see below). There will be a minimum of seven unannounced quizzes. Quizzes will ask factual questions (i.e. not interpretive) about the plays and other assigned readings. Correct answers for quizzes will generally be reviewed in class immediately after they're taken. There will, therefore, be no opportunities to make up missed quizzes, and I will not return graded quizzes. (But I will post grades in Blackboard and you may see your graded quiz if you request it.) The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped from the calculation of class participation.
- 10% of the class participation grade will be based on the quality (not quantity) of class involvement, including informal responses to study questions, generating one's own questions, productive participation in discussion. Please come see me or email me if you would like help expressing your ideas in the classroom.
- Attendance - Students don't receive positive points for attendance, but class participation points will be deducted after 3 absences (on a 4.0 scale: 0.5 points for 4 absences; 1.0 for 5; 1.5 for 6; 2.0 for 7. Those with more than 7 absences will receive an F for the course.

THE SYLLABUS (including assignments, due dates, etc.) IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER, according to circumstances.

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**English 321 34650, Shakespeare: Selected Plays
Course Schedule**

Note that the schedule is subject change and does not include all assigned work.

week	day	date		present concept due	presentation
1	TU	19-Jan	Introduction: history, orthodoxies, and interpretation		
	TH	21-Jan	<i>Richard II</i>		
2	TU	26-Jan	<i>Richard II</i>	<i>Richard II</i>	
	TH	28-Jan	<i>Richard II</i>		
3	TU	2-Feb	<i>Richard II / Henry V</i>	<i>Henry V</i>	<i>Richard II</i>
	TH	4-Feb	<i>Henry V</i>		
4	TU	9-Feb	<i>Henry V</i>	<i>Dream</i>	
	TH	11-Feb	<i>Henry V</i>		<i>Henry V</i>
5	TU	16-Feb	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>		
	TH	18-Feb	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	12th	
6	TU	23-Feb	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>		<i>Dream</i>
	TH	25-Feb	<i>Twelfth Night</i>		
7	TU	2-Mar	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	<i>Hamlet</i>	
	TH	4-Mar	<i>Twelfth Night</i>		12th
8	TU	9-Mar	<i>Hamlet</i>	<i>Othello</i>	
	TH	11-Mar	<i>Hamlet</i>		
March 15-19 Spring Break					
9	TU	23-Mar	<i>Hamlet</i>		<i>Hamlet</i>
	TH	25-Mar	<i>Othello</i>		
10	TU	30-Mar	<i>Othello</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	
	TH	1-Apr	<i>Othello</i>		<i>Othello</i>
11	TU	6-Apr	Exam		
	TH	8-Apr	Walk		
12	TU	13-Apr	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	<i>MFM</i>	
	TH	15-Apr	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>		
13	TU	20-Apr	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>		<i>Merchant</i>
	TH	22-Apr	<i>The Merchant of Venice / Measure for Measure</i>		
14	TU	27-Apr	<i>Measure for Measure</i>		
	TH	29-May	<i>Measure for Measure</i>		<i>MFM</i>
15	TU	4-May	<i>Measure for Measure</i>		
	TH	6-May	Wrap up: <i>Merchant, Measure, &</i> take home exam		

Feb 14 last auto Q

March 28 last possible Q

EXAM 2 must be turned in through "Safe Assign" no later than 8:00 a.m on Tuesday, May 11.