



Instructor: Leslie Thomson

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Course Number: ENG460H5F

Course Title: Shakespearean Tragedy

Course description: This course will focus on tragedy as a genre and on how Shakespeare used the conventions of that genre to create a particular dramatic experience for the audience in a selection of his tragedies. Emphasis will be on close reading of the plays as texts written for performance on the early modern English stage. Classical and modern theories of tragedy will also be considered.

Required Reading: *Richard II, Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth*. Other materials will be available on the Blackboard course site.

Since you will already have editions of some or all of the plays and they are easily found in bookstores (including used), I have not ordered copies. You must use modern, annotated editions, preferably the single-play editions published by Arden, Cambridge, Oxford, or Pelican or the collected works published by Riverside or Norton. Please check with me before using any other editions. You *must* bring a copy of the relevant play to every class.

Continued...

Also required: M. H. Abrams, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. This reference work is available used and new; the most recent edition is the ninth, but you can use earlier editions.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: As listed above; please have *Richard II* read for the first class, because we will begin our discussion of it then.

Method of Instruction: Informal lecture; student presentations; general discussion.

Method of Evaluation: In-class test (20%), Seminar presentation of a Close Reading (10%), Short Essay based on seminar presentation (10%), Annotated Bibliography for final essay (15%), Regular and informed participation (10%), Final Essay (35%).