



Instructor: Holger Syme

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Course Number: ENG220Y5Y L0101

Course Title: Shakespeare

Course description: We will study eleven of Shakespeare's plays, from all phases of his career as a professional playwright and from all the major genres he worked in: comedy, history, tragedy, and "romance." The course will contextualize these plays historically and culturally, exploring early modern notions of, for instance, governance, religion, and gender and sexuality. We will pay particular attention to Shakespeare's works as *plays* written for and within a specific set of theatrical conventions. The ways in which these texts have been received and transmitted over time (in print, on stage, on the screen) will also be a major theme of our discussions.

Required Reading:

Titus Andronicus, Midsummer Night's Dream, Merchant of Venice, Henry IV pt. 1, Much Ado About Nothing, Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Twelfth Night, Othello, Macbeth, The Tempest.

Continued...

Text:

Preferably a recent edition of the collected works (Norton, Riverside, Longman) or recent single-text editions (Oxford, New Cambridge, Arden, New Folger); I strongly recommend you use an annotated text. References in lecture will be to the *Norton Shakespeare*, 2nd edition.

First Three Texts:

Titus Andronicus, Midsummer Night's Dream, Merchant of Venice.

Method of Instruction:

Lecture, occasional in-class discussion, small-class tutorials with intensive discussion

Method of Evaluation:

Participation (20%), regular announced quizzes (15%), close reading exercise (15%), 5-7 page essay (20%), 7-9 page essay (30%).