

**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo**  
**Department of English**  
**ENGL 363 / DRAMA 387 – Shakespeare 2 (Winter 2019)**  
**T/TR 10:00-11:20**  
**SJ2 2007**

**Instructor:** Dr. Alysia Kolentsis  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1-2, and by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course offers a close study of Shakespeare's plays written after 1600. Topics to be considered include the relationship between the plays and the climate of Shakespeare's age (political context, philosophical preconceptions, literary influences and sources, etc); the history of the theatre, especially playhouses and acting companies; changing perceptions of genre, with a particular emphasis on various forms of tragedy; and the nuances of and tensions between written text and performance. We will also consider how Shakespeare has functioned as a cultural force, and reflect on the factors that have helped to make him a cultural icon. The format of the class will be lecture/discussion.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To foster a critical appreciation of selected plays by a foundational English writer and to provide some specific vocabulary and tools for close analysis of these texts
- To develop reading practices which situate Shakespeare's texts and their reception within various social, political, and cultural contexts in which they were produced and in which they are performed and read
- To practice thinking, speaking, and writing critically about literature

**Required Texts:**

We will be studying the following plays (available at the UW Bookstore):

*Hamlet*

*Troilus and Cressida*

*Othello*

*Coriolanus*

*The Winter's Tale*

- Any good critical edition of the play (i.e. one with a comprehensive introduction and footnotes) is acceptable.
- One short critical reading (typically about 15 pages) is also required for each play/unit. These are available online through the course reserves site through the UW Library (link available on LEARN).
- We will spend about two weeks on each play. The class schedule below outlines projected dates for each unit, but these are subject to some variation.

**CLASS SCHEDULE****Week 1**

Tues Jan 8: COURSE INFORMATION & WELCOME

Thurs Jan 10: WHAT MAKES SHAKESPEARE SHAKESPEAREAN?  
POST-1600 SHAKESPEARE: APPROACHES AND CONTEXTS

**Week 2**

Tues Jan 15: *HAMLET*  
**Critical reading: Bristol**

Thurs Jan 17: *HAMLET*

**Week 3**

Tues Jan 22: *HAMLET*

Thurs Jan 24: *HAMLET*  
**Presentations: *Hamlet***

**Week 4**

Tues Jan 29: *TROILUS AND CRESSIDA*  
**Critical reading: Bevington**

Thurs Jan 31: *TROILUS AND CRESSIDA*

**Week 5**

Tues Feb 5: *TROILUS AND CRESSIDA*

Thurs Feb 7: *TROILUS AND CRESSIDA*  
**Presentations: *Troilus and Cressida***

**Week 6**

Tues Feb 12: *TROILUS AND CRESSIDA*  
**Presentations: *Troilus and Cressida***

Thurs Feb 14: **Test #1**

**READING WEEK (Feb 19, Feb 21)**

**Week 7**

Tues Feb 26: *OTHELLO*  
**Critical reading: Danson**

Thurs Feb 28: *OTHELLO*  
**Presentations: *Othello***

**Week 8**

Tues March 5: *OTHELLO*

Thurs March 7: *OTHELLO*

**Presentations: *Othello***

**Week 9**

Tues Mar 12: *CORIOLANUS*

**Critical reading: Adelman**

Thurs Mar 14: *CORIOLANUS*

**Presentations: *Coriolanus***

**Week 10**

Tues Mar 19: *CORIOLANUS*

Thurs Mar 21: *CORIOLANUS*

**Presentations: *Coriolanus***

**Week 11**

Tues Mar 26: *THE WINTER'S TALE*

**Critical reading: Lamb**

Thurs Mar 28: *THE WINTER'S TALE*

**Presentations: *The Winter's Tale***

**Week 12**

Tues April 2: *THE WINTER'S TALE*

**Presentations: *The Winter's Tale***

Thurs April 4: **Test #2**

**Essay deadline: April 5-12 (see note regarding rolling due date, below)**

**Course requirements:**

Participation: 15%

Tests (2 x 15% each, Feb 14 and April 4): 30%

Presentation: 20%

Essay: 35%

**Participation (15%)** is based on one's regular attendance; contributions to discussions in class and online; thoughtful preparation and commentary on the assigned readings; and the completion of short writing exercises, both in-class and as homework (see details below).

**In-class writing exercises** will involve short individual responses to class material, as directed by the instructor. Please note that you must be present in class to earn credit for these exercises; there will not be a make-up option in the event of absence.

**Homework writing exercises** are short responses (approx. 200 words) to the critical readings that are paired with each unit. In each response, you may comment on (or quibble with) the author's ideas and/or explore how they might illuminate certain aspects of the play under consideration. These responses are to be posted on LEARN to be shared with other class members (further details will be provided in class). To obtain full marks for this component of participation, you must post on LEARN responses for three of our five units (note: each writing exercise must deal with a different critical reading, and at least one of them must be for *Hamlet* or *Troilus and Cressida*).

Please note that if you attend all (or nearly all) classes, and complete all of the in-class and homework writing exercises, your participation grade will be in the B- range (approximately 11/15); to obtain a participation grade in the A-range (12/15 or above), you must participate in class discussion.

#### **Tests (2 x 15% each): February 14 and April 4**

These are open-book and write-at-home tests. Each test will feature an essay-style response about the plays we have studied up to this point in the term (Test 1 will cover *Hamlet* and *Troilus and Cressida*; Test 2 will cover *Othello*, *Coriolanus* and *The Winter's Tale*). There will be a choice of three questions (distributed in class and on LEARN one week in advance) and you will be required to respond to one. On the day of the test, I will post the test question on LEARN by 9:00am. You will be required to submit your response to the designated LEARN Dropbox by 5:00pm. Additional details about the tests will be provided in class.

#### **Group presentations (20%): various dates throughout the term**

These presentations (15-20 minutes, depending on the number of students per group) will focus on a particular aspect of your chosen play. Options include analysis of the "backstory" behind a particular scene (the historical event, or Shakespeare's source material); performance of a scene followed by explanation and analysis of performance choices; close reading of a soliloquy, speech, or other element of dramatic dialogue; or a topic of your choice, approved by the instructor. Groups will be set during the second week of class. Maximum four students per group.

#### **Essay (35%)**

The term essay should be approximately 8-10 pages, on a topic provided by the instructor, or on one agreed upon through consultation with the instructor. The essay should closely analyze two plays, and should incorporate a small number of secondary critical sources. Feedback and assistance is available at several stages of the planning and writing process (please see note on essay writing assistance, below). Essay details and topics will be made available in class and on LEARN in February. Please use MLA documentation style (details about MLA formatting will be available on LEARN).

#### **Rolling due date for essays:**

**11:59 pm on Friday, April 5:** essays handed in by this time will receive extensive written feedback.

**11:59 pm on Friday, April 12:** essays handed in by this time will receive limited written feedback.

Essays handed in after this time will be penalized 3% late per day, until **Monday April 15. After this date, essays will no longer be accepted.**

#### **TIPS FOR CLASS AND ASSIGNMENT PREPARATION**

**Class readings:** Shakespeare's English can seem difficult upon first reading; often, hearing the words spoken aloud while following along in the text can help. Excerpts from performances will be shown in class as part of the lecture format, but you may also want to sample from the library's wide selection of audio and video material on Shakespeare (YouTube also has a lot of good stuff).

**Missed classes:** Attendance is crucial to success in this class. After two or three absences, the student's participation grade will be affected. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes and material in the event of missed classes; the instructor cannot provide notes.

### **UW POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS AND MISSED TESTS**

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations ([www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf)) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the "University of Waterloo Verification of Illness" form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at [uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness](http://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness).
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

### **PROFESSOR'S POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS/ESSAYS AND MAKE-UP TESTS**

Missed assignments are subject to a grade of zero. A make-up assignment will be made available only if the student provides acceptable proof of absence, such as a medical note.

### **ACCESSABILITY**

The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Note:** Your success in this class is important to me. If there are factors or circumstances that may affect your performance in this class (even those not documented with the AS Office), please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Academic Integrity:** To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing

academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71 (<http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>). In addition, we will be talking about academic offenses (including various types of plagiarism) in class.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Students who decide to file a grievance should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 70 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). For more information, students should contact the Associate Dean of St. Jerome’s University.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline or University of Waterloo Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, please consult St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Appeals.