English 2115: Shakespeare

Course Location: Web

Class Times: asynchronous

Prerequisites: One FCE at the first-year level or second-year standing, or permission of the Chair of the Department

To our Student: Should you require information or documents from our office in another format, please let us know. We are happy to help you. Contact your instructor or our Department of English Administrative Assistant.

Instructor Information **2**
Teaching Assistant Information **2**
Course Description/Overview **2**
Course Objectives and/or Learner Outcomes **2**
Course Resources **3**
Required Course Text 3
Course Website 3
Course Schedule **3**
Assignments and Evaluation **4**
Table of Assignments **4**
Assignment Policies 4
Details of Assignments 4
Performance Review 4
Take Home Mid Term Test 4
Major Paper 5
Take Home Final Exam 5
Marking Standards **5**
Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules **5**
Course Content **6**
University Policies **6**

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Douglas W. Hayes
- Office: online
- Telephone: n/a
- Email: dhayes@lakeheadu.ca
- Office Hours: online via email or google chat 11:00am-12:00pm EST, Monday and Thursday, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant Information

- Teaching Assistant: Ms. Ashley Friesen
- Office: n/a
- Telephone: n/a
- Email: adfriese@lakeheadu.ca
- Office Hours: TBA

Course Description/Overview

A study of Shakespeare's poetry and drama. Students will be introduced to the various genres in which Shakespeare worked: comedy, tragedy, history, sonnet, and narrative poetry. Lectures will situate the readings in a variety of historical and cultural contexts, which may include theatre conventions and history, political contexts, gender and sexual politics, colonial history, and publication history.

Course Objectives and/or Learner Outcomes

- read texts of all kinds critically, and assess their rhetorical, ideological and aesthetic strategies.
- communicate ideas effectively and coherently, in both the persuasive essay, and a variety of other forms.
- identify the conventions of a variety of genres, both general (such as poetry) and specific (such as the sonnet), and to identify ways in which individual texts work within, or expand the definitions of, that genre.
- analyse specific literary devices and explain how those devices contribute to the meaning of a literary text.
- explain the role of literature in articulating and creating categories of identity.
- explain how a text is produced by, and produces, its historical and cultural context.
- use library resources to research a topic and use what they discover to illuminate a text.
- adapt the tools of literary analysis to cross-disciplinary inquiry.
- apply their knowledge of how literature works to their own writing.
- read texts critically in a variety of historical contexts.
- think independently and critically about literature and the issues raised by texts
- identify and assess the social, environmental and other ethical themes presented in texts
- analyse texts from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

Course Resources

Required Course Text

- William Shakespeare. *The Arden Shakespeare: Complete Works*. Eds. Richard Proudfoot, Ann Thompson, David Scott Kastan, and H.R. Woudhuysen. (Bloomsbury, 2021)

Course Website

- Desire2Learn (or myCourseLInk)[i]
- There are a number of sites that feature free or pay-per-view video performances of Shakespeare's plays. Highly reputable sources include the following: www.shakespearesglobe.com, www.rsc.org.uk, www.stratfordfestival.ca, www.folger.edu/folger-theatre. The BBC Television Shakespeare is available for streaming through BBC iPlayer or via a Britbox subscription on Amazon Prime Video.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to the course and the Renaissance period

Week 2 *Much Ado About Nothing*

Week 3 *Much Ado About Nothing*; performance review due 29 January 4:30pm

Week 4 *Sonnets* 2, 12, 15, 18, 29, 73, 127, 130

Week 5 *Venus and Adonis*; midterm test assigned 8 February; due 12 February 4:30pm

Week 6 Reading Week–No Class

Week 7 *King Henry IV, Part I*

Week 8 *King Henry IV, Part I*

Week 9 *Othello*; Drop Deadline 12 March

Week 10 *Othello*

Week 11 *The Tempest*; Major Paper due 26 March 4:30pm

Week 12 *The Tempest*

Week 13 review

Assignments and Evaluation

Table of Assignments

Assignment	Due date	Value	Length
Performance Review	29 January	15%	500 words
Mid Term Test	12 February	25%	750 words
Major Paper	26 March	30%	2000 words
Final Exam	23 April	30%	1000 words

Assignment Policies

- All assignments are individual assignments and cannot be completed collaboratively.
- Assignments are due by 4:30pm Eastern on the dates indicated. Assignments must be submitted to the course D2L page in .pdf format ONLY. Other document formats will not be accepted.
- If you require an extension, you must ask for one BEFORE the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late essays will be penalized by 2% per day (to a maximum of 20%), and will not be accepted after 4:30pm ten days after the assignment was due.
- All assignments must be in MLA format, double spaced, with 1" margins, and in 12 point font.
- Exceptions to these policies are allowed only with a doctor's note or other appropriate documentation.

Details of Assignments

Performance Review

This assignment, worth 15% of your final mark, is a 500-word (approximately 2 double spaced typed pages) review of a recorded performance of one of the assigned plays that you have viewed. You may choose any of the plays we are studying this term. Be sure to comment upon the following in your review: production style (period dress or modern dress, historical, realist or symbolic staging), acting style, and overall effectiveness. You may choose a recorded theatrical performance, a production for television, or a film. And, of course, you may be evaluative as well; did you like it? Why or why not? It is due by 4:30 pm Eastern on Friday 29 January 2021. Only submissions to the course D2L page in .pdf format will be accepted.

Take Home Mid Term Test

This take home test, worth 25% of your final mark, is a 750-word (approximately 3 double spaced typed pages) essay on a topic to be distributed Monday 8 February 2021. You may consult and quote the primary texts, Shakespeare's works, themselves, but no reference to secondary sources is required or expected as this is an essay test rather than a research paper. Refer to Shakespeare's poetry by line number and plays by Act, scene, and line numbers. No Works Cited page is required. It is due by 4:30 pm

Eastern on Friday 12 February 2021. Only submissions to the course D2L page in pdf format will be accepted.

Major Paper

This 2000-word (approximately 8 double spaced typed pages) research essay is worth 30% of your final mark. You must include references to at least TWO (2) peer-reviewed secondary sources (such as journal articles, essay collections, or monographs). The completed essay must be in MLA format. Refer to Shakespeare's poetry by line number and plays by Act, scene, and line numbers. It is due by 4:30 pm Eastern on Friday 26 March. Only Submissions to the course D2L page in .pdf format will be accepted. Write your essay on one of the following topics:

1. Discuss gender stereotypes and their subversion in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

2. Examine the voice of the speaker in four of Shakespeare's sonnets.

3. Analyze the role of Falstaff in *King Henry IV, Part I*.

4. Analyze the role of Iago in *Othello*.

5. Explore the representations of sexuality in *Venus and Adonis*.

6. Discuss the representation of magic in *The Tempest*.

Take Home Final Exam

This take home exam, worth 30% of your final mark, is a 1000-word (approximately 4 double spaced typed pages) essay on a topic to be distributed Monday 19 April 2021. You may consult and quote the primary texts, Shakespeare's works, themselves, but no reference to secondary sources is required or expected as this is an essay exam rather than a research paper. Refer to Shakespeare's poetry by line number and plays by Act, scene, and line numbers. No Works Cited page is required. It is due by 4:30 pm Eastern on Friday 23 April 2021 (exam dates subject to change). Only submissions to the course D2L page in .pdf format will be accepted.

Marking Standards

All assignments will be marked in accordance with the English Department Marking Standards[ii].

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute

plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean, who is responsible for judging academic misconduct and imposing penalties. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct is a 0 on the assignment in question. It might also be subject to more severe academic penalties. See the Student Code of Conduct[iii].

Course Content

Students with no prior familiarity with the literature of the European Middle Ages and Renaissance are advised that the vast majority of extant poetry, prose, and drama composed in Latin and vernacular languages from 400–1700 CE contains overt Christian content and themes. The works of William Shakespeare are no exception. Please note that we will study the texts with Christian content as literary and cultural artifacts rather than as expressions of religious faith, and no prior familiarity with the Christian tradition is expected.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity[iv].
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code[v]. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS)[vi] and register as early as possible.

This course outline is available online through the English Department homepage[vii] and/or the Desire2Learn or My Courselink[i] site for the course.

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[i] https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home
[ii] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/english/marking-standards
[iii] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct
[iv] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct/academic-integrity/node/51239
[v] http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code
[vi] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-services/accessibility
[vii] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/english