

**Shakespeare**  
**English 347-547/Fall 2009**  
**Clow 243/M-W-F: 9:10-10:10**

**Dr. Duke Pesta**  
**210 Radford Hall**  
**Office Hours: MW: 11:30-1:00; W: 5:00-6:00**

**Office Phone: 424-7280**  
[\*\*pestaj@uwosh.edu\*\*](mailto:pestaj@uwosh.edu)  
[\*\*www.english.uwosh.edu\*\*](http://www.english.uwosh.edu)

**Course Objectives**

Besides developing your critical skills as a thinker, reader, and writer of expository prose, this course will provide you the opportunity to study the plays and poems of Shakespeare in a sustained and detailed manner. First and foremost, Shakespeare is enjoyable, and this course will emphasize those aspects of Shakespeare's work that have endeared him to readers and audiences of all classes and educational backgrounds. But the study of Shakespeare in an advanced English course is also a very serious endeavor, for a thorough understanding of Shakespeare and his world is a necessary attainment for anyone who aspires to fulfill the mission of liberal education. Shakespeare remains an enduring influence in our society, and his plays and poems are woven into the very fabric of our collective culture. Thus, you will be expected to read Shakespeare's plays carefully, think about them intensively, write about them critically, and hopefully, respond to them passionately.

**Required Texts**

*The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, by Shakespeare (Bevington, Editor).

**Attendance**

You need to be here for every class, as I will give daily 10-point reading quizzes. Students may not make up quizzes missed because of unexcused absence or tardiness. These quizzes will make up your attendance/participation grade and will count for 20% of your final grade. Each unexcused absence subtracts 10 points from your overall quiz grade. These quizzes will be straightforward and content oriented, designed to verify that you are reading on schedule. It is essential that you keep up with the reading. Absences and missed quizzes will seriously compromise your chances to do well in this course. If you are at all concerned about your grade, do not skip classes.

**Grading**

**20% Take Home Exam**  
**20% Midterm ID/Essay Exam**  
**20% Final ID/Essay Exam**

**20% Paper**  
**20% Quizzes**

**Grading for Graduate Students**

**10% Take Home Exam**  
**20% Midterm ID/Essay Exam**  
**20% Final ID/Essay Exam**

**10% Quizzes**  
**10% Research Paper Draft**  
**30% Research Paper**

1) **Term Research Paper**: Each student will write one critical essay approximately 5000 words long (about 20 typed, double-spaced pages) on some dimension, problem, or theory found in one or several of the works studied during the semester. While the topic will be of the student's choosing, the instructor will be happy to discuss possible topics or facilitate in any way. A thorough knowledge of the secondary material should be evident in the background of the paper, but secondary material should not take the place of the student's own original critical thinking. The goal is to produce a paper of publishable quality, and those papers that best fulfill this objective will receive the best grades.

This paper will be completed in two phases. A preliminary draft of the paper will be submitted on Monday, 23 November. This version will be given a grade based on the originality and cogency of its ideas, its careful reading of the work or works under consideration, the clarity and precision of its expression, and its correct use of secondary sources. It is advisable to consult with the instructor before submitting this draft. This version will be graded and returned the following week. The purpose of this process is to encourage students to write a paper that does more than simply fulfill a class requirement. If done well, this paper could be suitable for submission to a journal, a conference, or for one of our departmental prizes. The finished essay will be due on Wednesday, 16 December.

#### **Grading Scale**

100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 59-0 F.

#### **Note**

Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment, possible failure of the course, and may carry further penalties. I will assume that your writing skills are appropriate for this level course. This means that I expect writing assignments to conform to all the conventions of good writing (this includes spelling!).

#### **Disability Policy**

If you have a disability or need special accommodation of any nature whatsoever, I will work with you—in conjunction with the proper university office—to provide reasonable assistance in order to ensure you a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Once you have registered your disability with the proper university office, advise me of the disability and the desired accommodation as soon as possible after the commencement of the semester.

#### **Readings**

##### **September**

W/9 Introduction

F/11 Read *As You Like It* Acts 1 and 2.

M/14 Read *As You Like It* Acts 2 and 3.

W/16 Read *As You Like It* Acts 3 and 4.

**F/18** Read *As You Like It* Acts 4 and 5.

**M/21** Read *As You Like It* Act 5.

**W/23** Read *Twelfth Night* Acts 1 and 2.

**F/25** Read *Twelfth Night* Acts 2 and 3.

**M/28** Read *Twelfth Night* Acts 3 and 4.

**W/30** Read *Twelfth Night* Acts 4 and 5.

### **October**

**F/2** Read *Twelfth Night* Act 5.  
Take Home Exam Assigned

**M/5** Read *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 1 and 2.

**W/7** Read *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 2 and 3.  
Take Home Exam Due

**F/9** Read *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 3 and 4.

**M/12** Read *The Merchant of Venice* Acts 4 and 5.

**W/14** Read *The Merchant of Venice* Act 5.

**F/16** Read *Measure for Measure* Acts 1 and 2.

**M/19** Read *Measure for Measure* Acts 2 and 3.

**W/21** Read *Measure for Measure* Act 3.

**F/23** Read *Measure for Measure* Acts 3 and 4.

**M/26** Read *Measure for Measure* Acts 4 and 5.

**W/28** Read *Measure for Measure* Act 5.

**F/30** Exam Two

### **November**

**M/2** Read *King Lear* Acts 1 and 2.

**W/4** Read *King Lear* Acts 2 and 3.

**F/6** Read *King Lear* Act 3.

**M/9** Read *King Lear* Acts 3 and 4.

- W/11 Read *King Lear* Acts 4 and 5.
- F/13 Read *King Lear* Act 5.
- M/16 Read *Timon of Athens* Acts 1 and 2.
- W/18 Read *Timon of Athens* Acts 2 and 3.
- F/20 Read *Timon of Athens* Act 3.
- M/23 Read *Timon of Athens* Acts 3 and 4.  
Graduate Research Draft Due
- W/25 Thanksgiving Break
- F/27 Thanksgiving Break
- M/30 Read *Timon of Athens* Acts 4 and 5.

December

- W/2 Read *Timon of Athens* Act 5.
- F/4 Read *Macbeth* Acts 1 and 2.
- M/7 Read *Macbeth* Acts 2 and 3.
- W/9 Read *Macbeth* Act 3.
- F/11 Read *Macbeth* Acts 3 and 4.
- M/14 Read *Macbeth* Acts 4 and 5.
- W/16 Read *Macbeth* Act 5.
- F/18 Final Exam