

Course Description

Course Title and Number: English 4237, Shakespeare II

Instructor: Dr. Catherine G. Martin, Patterson 449, x2686

TEXTS: The Complete Pelican Shakespeare, ed. Stephen Orgel and A.R. Braunmuller
ISBN: 01410,00589

Note: Students who already own a complete Shakespeare text may use it for this course provided that it includes good footnotes. These are essential since many of Shakespeare's words are no longer current or have changed their meanings.

Format and Written Work: Each class will have two parts, an opening powerpoint lecture (40-45 minutes) followed by questions, and class discussion in smaller groups. Each student is required to bring to class at least two written questions on individual speeches, plot, character, symbolism, or historical setting and submit them (signed) before we begin. These will be given from 1-10 quiz points based on how perceptive or substantial they are (80 points). Students will also write one introductory paper closely analyzing a speech or a brief comparison/contrast (4-5 pages, 100 points) and one longer, broader thematic or character study (5-8 pages, 120 points). The in-class midterm and final exam will follow the same general format (100 points each) by asking for essay questions in 4 separate categories, each with at least 3 options to write on.

Aims and Organization: Shakespeare's play are usually subdivided into four genres, comedy, tragedy, history (both English and Roman) and romance. This advanced course will cover all of these genres but it will not rigidly separate them, instead emphasizing the thematic continuities between them.

- 1) Scape-goating theories of comedy and tragedy
- 2) Anthropological approaches to comedy from C. L. Barber to Bakhtin.
- 3) Classical and 16th-17th century Renaissance theories of tragedy
- 4) Feminist approaches to both comedy and tragedy
- 5) Shakespeare's politics: "contained" or pseudo-subversion or closet republicanism?

Individual Plays, Themes, and Lectures:

Introductory Lecture, Course Overview

Unit I: Forbidden Love:

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Romeo and Juliet

Unit 2: Jealousy and Revenge:

Much Ado about Nothing

Othello

Unit 3: Patriarchy vs. Matriarchy

The Taming of the Shrew

Macbeth

Unit 4: Political Power and Its Discontents

Julius Caesar

Henry V