

ENGL 119-01 SHAKESPEARE SUMMER 2017

May 22 – June 16, 2017

Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 3:00 Intercultural Center 107

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Office Hours: By Appointment

DESCRIPTION

The course will look closely at four of Shakespeare's plays, two comedies (*Much Ado about Nothing* and *The Merchant of Venice*) and two tragedies (*Macbeth* and *King Lear*). It will focus largely (but not exclusively) on two significant questions: how might these plays have been brought to life by actors on a stage in Shakespeare's time and how might they continue to be brought to life by actors in our own time. Through the process of seeking answers to those questions, the course will hope also to discover what these plays of Shakespeare, on the page and on the stage, might say to us now, some four hundred years after they were written. To provide at least one answer to the question of how the plays are brought to life on the stage in our own time, the course will require students to attend a production of *Macbeth* at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington.

OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING GOALS

to understand how a script by Shakespeare might have been brought to life on the stage by his own acting company and how a script is brought to life on the stage by actors and directors today

to read with increased comprehension of, sensitivity to, and appreciation for the language and the coherences of Shakespeare's scripts

to become familiar with some of the contemporary theoretical approaches to Shakespeare's plays

to discover what insights into the human condition the plays of Shakespeare might offer men and women some 400 years after they were written.

TEXTS
Signet Classic Shakespeare

Macbeth: ISBN: 13: 978-0780757530, \$5.95

Much Ado about Nothing: ISBN-13: 978-0451526816, \$5.95

The Merchant of Venice: ISBN-13: 978-0451508287, \$5.95

King Lear: ISBN-13: 978-0451526939, \$5.95

PLAN OF THE COURSE

May 22 Introductions
 Shakespeare's Plays in Performance I

May 23, 24 Shakespeare's Plays in Performance II:
 The Merchant of Venice, 2.5

May 25, 26, 30, 31 *Macbeth*

May 25 *Macbeth*, 7:30pm
 Sidney Harman Center for the Arts, 610 F Street, NW

June 1 Shakespeare's Comedy

June 2, 5, 6 *Much Ado about Nothing*

June 7, 9, 12 *The Merchant of Venice*

June 13, 14, 15, 16 *King Lear*

ASSIGNMENTS

Read, with great care and attention, the assigned plays. (While some essays and articles will be distributed as the course progresses, you have very little other reading than the plays so that you might give them close attention). Think about the plays and the issues that get raised in class. Come to class regularly and take part in the activities and discussions. If you are absent for more than two classes, your final grade will be lowered. Attend the production of *Macbeth* at The Shakespeare Theatre on May 24. Write four papers, on topics to be assigned, during the course. (One paper will probably be a review of a filmed version of a play by Shakespeare). Each paper will ordinarily be assigned on Thursday and be due on the following Tuesday. The grade on each paper will count as 25% of the final grade.

READING SCHEDULE

You should have the assigned plays read in their entirety no later than the dates indicated below. Short, unannounced exams may be given from time to time to insure you are reading on schedule. You should always bring to class the text of the play we are scheduled to discuss and, if we fall behind schedule, the text of the play we are discussing.

May 24	<i>Macbeth</i>
June 2	<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>
June 7	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
June 13	<i>King Lear</i>

PAPER SCHEUDLE

- Paper #1: Assigned May 25 / Due May 30
- Paper #2: Assigned June 1 / Due June 6
- Paper #3: Assigned June 9 / Due June 13
- Paper #4: Assigned June 15 / Due June 19 (Monday)

Some minor adjustments may be made to these schedules: they are meant to help you organize your work for the course efficiently.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (Leavey Center, Suite 335; 202-687-8354; arc@georgetown.edu; ldss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm) before the start of classes to allow that office time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your instructors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

HONOR CODE

Students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor; and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.