

ENGL 119-01 SHAKESPEARE SUMMER 2020

May 18 – June 12, 2020

Monday through Friday, 10:45am to 12:45pm

Michael J. Collins

E-mail: collinmj@georgetown.edu 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 *Hamlet*). 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.

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: 978-0-451-52677-9, \$5.95

Hamlet: ISBN: 13: 978-0-451-52692-2, \$5.95

The Merchant of Venice: ISBN: 13: 978-0-451-52680-9, \$5.95

Much Ado about Nothing: ISBN: 13-978-0-451-52681-6, \$5.95

You should, if possible, you have either a printed or an e-book version of the play with explanatory notes. The **Signet Classic Shakespeare** is a good edition, but you may use another (e.g., the **Folger**, the **Arden**) if you wish.

PLAN OF THE COURSE

May 18, 19	Introductions/Shakespeare's Plays in Performance
May 20, 21, 22, 26	<i>Macbeth</i>
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday
May 27	Shakespeare's Comedy
May 28, 29, June 1	<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>
Tuesday, June 2	Shakespeare's Theatres
June 3,4,5,8	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
June 9, 10, 11, 12	<i>Hamlet</i>

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 they raise. Attend the online classes regularly and participate in the discussions. If you are absent for more than two classes, your final grade will be lowered. Write four papers, on topics to be assigned, during the course. (One paper will 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. (Please consult the schedule on the following page). 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. Please be sure to have access to the text of the play we are discussing during the classes.

May 20	<i>Macbeth</i>
May 28	<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>
June 3	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
June 9	<i>Hamlet</i>

PAPER SCHEDULE

Paper #1:	Assigned May 21 / Due May 26
Paper #2:	Assigned May 28 / Due June 2
Paper #3:	Assigned June 3 / Due June 9
Paper #4:	Assigned June 11 / Due June 15 (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 (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.