

LIT 327.01 - Shakespeare

Fall 2016
TR 11:00 – 12:20
SG 303

Robert Baker (543-4135 / robert.baker@mso.umt.edu)
Office Hours: TR 12:30 – 1:45, 3:30 – 4:00,
or by appointment (LA 219)

Course Description

This course is an introductory study of ten of Shakespeare's plays that are widely regarded as among his best plays. In a loose sense, not an exact sense, we will follow the chronological order in which the plays were written, beginning with the comedies and the histories, and then turning to the tragedies and the romances. We will devote most of our time to discussing the things one always wants to discuss in responding to a play: plot, character, theme, mood, figurative pattern, linguistic energy, horizons of meaning, and larger contexts. We will, too, trace connections among the plays we read, clarify the basic preoccupations expressed in the different genres in which Shakespeare works, explore the different ways in which Shakespeare represents the self, and wrestle with a question that Shakespeare poses again and again in his plays: the relationship between wordliness and idealism in human life.

Readings: *Romeo and Juliet* (optional), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *1 Henry IV*, *2 Henry IV*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (optional), *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest*.

Course Requirements

- Reading of all assigned texts
- Regular attendance and engagement
- One or two quizzes
- Two short papers (5-7 pages)
- One longer final paper (10-12 pages)

Texts

- *The Sonnets* (optional)
- *Romeo and Juliet* (optional)
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- *As You Like It*
- *Twelfth Night*
- *Henry IV, Part I*
- *Henry IV, Part II*
- *Hamlet*
- *King Lear*
- *Macbeth*
- *Antony and Cleopatra* (optional)
- *The Winter's Tale*

- *The Tempest*
- Essays filed on moodle for LIT 327.01

Map of Course

*There may be slight changes as we move along.

*Most of the essays are optional: I may require that you read one or two of them.

T Aug 30	Introduction
R Sept 1	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
T Sept 6	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Northrop Frye, "The Mythos of Spring: Comedy"
R Sept 8	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Tony Tanner, chapter on <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> from <i>Prefaces to Shakespeare</i>
T Sept 13	<i>As You Like It</i>
R Sept 15	<i>As You Like It</i> Rosalie Colie, "Perspectives on Pastoral"
T Sept 20	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
R Sept 22	<i>Twelfth Night</i> Kiernan Ryan, chapter on <i>Twelfth Night</i> from <i>Shakespeare's Comedies</i>
T Sept 27	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i> *** Paper I Due ***
R Sept 29	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i>

Harold Bloom, chapter on *Henry IV* from *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*

T Oct 4 *Henry IV, Part II*

R Oct 6 *Henry IV, Part II*

T Oct 11 *Hamlet*

***** Quiz I *****

R Oct 13 *Hamlet*

Northrop Frye, “The Mythos of Autumn: Tragedy”

Harold Goddard, chapter on *Hamlet* from *The Meaning of Shakespeare*

T Oct 18 *Hamlet*

R Oct 20 *Hamlet*

T Oct 25 *King Lear*

***** Paper II Due *****

R Oct 27 *King Lear*

Marjorie Garber, chapter on *King Lear* from *Shakespeare After All*

T Nov 1 *King Lear*

R Nov 3 *King Lear*

T Nov 8 Election Day

R Nov 10 *Macbeth*

T Nov 15 *The Winter’s Tale*

R Nov 17 *The Winter’s Tale*

A. D. Nuttall, “The Last Plays” from *Shakespeare the Thinker*

Marjorie Garber, chapter on *The Winter’s Tale* from *Shakespeare After All*

T Nov 22 *The Winter's Tale*

R Nov 24 Thanksgiving Break

T Nov 29 *The Tempest*

R Dec 1 *The Tempest*

Northrop Frye, chapter on *The Tempest* from *On Shakespeare*
Stephen Greenblatt, "Learning to Curse" from *Learning to Curse*

***** Quiz II *****

T Dec 6 *The Tempest*

R Dec 8 Review

***** Final Paper: Due on Monday 12 December by 10:00 a.m. *****

Department and University Policies

Department Assessment

The English Department's process of curriculum assessment requires that faculty read student papers, outside of specific courses, to measure the progress students are making as they move through the program. One of your papers may be selected to be evaluated in this assessment process. If so, all identifying information will be removed, and no evaluation of your work outside the course will have any effect on your grade. If you wish that your work not be read a second time in this context, please let me know, and I will make sure that none of your work is forwarded to the assessment committee.

Disability Accommodation

It is university policy that students with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations in their course-work. If you wish to request accommodations, please do contact me early in the semester, and I will work with you and Disability Services to make sure that the necessary accommodations are made. For more information, call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text), or visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>.