LIT 327: William Shakespeare

Prof. Christopher Knight
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Office: LA 115; Tel.: 243-2878
Class Meetings: LA105; MWF, 9:00 – 9:50
Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday, 1:15 – 2:15
& by appointment
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Texts:

——. Hamlet. Penguin Books

Plan:

The course is designed as an introductory survey of Shakespeare’s work. The dating of Shakespeare’s writings, like the classifying of such by genre, is not a self-evident matter, but we will read selections roughly in the order in which such are thought to have been written. And we will make an effort, regarding genre, to read a representative cross selection, though giving a bit more emphasis (this semester) to the comedies and tragedies. (The principal dramatic genres that Shakespeare worked in are histories, comedies, tragedies, romances and problem plays.) We will begin the semester with a week on the sonnets, and commence our reading of the drama with a history play, Richard II.

Tentative Reading Schedule:

1/23 sonnets (give particular attention to: 8, 12, 17, 18, 20, 23, 29, 30, 45, 47, 50, 55, 60, 71, 72, 73, 87, 90, 91, 93, 94, 97, 98, 102, 106, 116, 121, 129, 130, 135, 138, 140, 144, 145 & 147)
1/25 sonnets
1/27 sonnets
1/30 Richard II (Acts I – II)
2/1 Richard II (Acts III – IV)
2/3 Richard II (Act V)
2/6 Two Gentlemen of Verona (Acts I – II)
2/8 Two Gentlemen of Verona (Acts III – IV)
2/10  Two Gentlemen of Verona (Act V)
2/13  Love’s Labor’s Lost (Acts I – II)
2/15  Love’s Labor’s Lost (Acts III – IV)
2/17  Love’s Labor’s Lost (Act V)
2/20  Sonnet Presentations (121 & 93)
2/22  A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Acts I – II)
2/24  A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Act III – IV)
2/27  A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Act V)
3/1   Sonnet Presentation (140 & 102)
3/3   As You Like It (Acts I – II)
3/6   As You Like It (Acts III – IV)
3/8   As You Like It (Act V)
3/10  Library Research Presentation, offered by Humanities Librarian Sue Samson, MLB 283
3/13  Library Research Presentation, offered by Humanities Librarian Sue Samson, MLB 283; Afternoon lecture by Dr. Sukanta Chaudhari on A Midsummer Night’s Dream, 3.30 p.m in LA103A-B.
3/15  Midterm Examination, Part I
3/17  Midterm Examination, Part II
3/20 - 3/24  Spring Break
3/27  Troilus and Cressida (Acts I – II)
3/29  Troilus and Cressida (Acts III – IV)
3/31  Troilus and Cressida (Act V)
4/3   Measure for Measure (Acts I – II)
4/5   Measure for Measure (Acts III – IV)
4/7   Measure for Measure (Act V)
4/10  Hamlet (Acts I – II)
4/12  Hamlet (Act III – IV)
4/14  Hamlet (Act V)
4/17  King Lear (Acts I – II)
4/19  King Lear (Acts III – IV)
4/21  King Lear (Act V)
4/24  Coriolanus (Acts I – II); Term Paper due
4/26  Coriolanus (Acts III – IV)
4/28  Coriolanus (Act V)
5/1   The Winter’s Tale (Acts I – II)
5/3   The Winter’s Tale (Acts III – IV)
5/5   The Winter’s Tale (Act V)
5/12  Final Examination, Friday, 10:10 – 12:10, regular classroom

Requirements:

There will be (as noted above) two (principally essay) examinations, the first on March 15th and 17th, the second on Friday, May 12th (10:10 – 12:10), during Exam Week. There will be no
make-ups, except in the most extraordinary circumstances. There will be a ten-page paper due Monday, April 24th; a prompt for the paper will be distributed early in the semester. You are welcome to submit the paper earlier, in which case it will be graded and returned earlier. Late papers will be penalized a letter grade (e.g., A to A-) for each class meeting missed, up to a full letter (e.g., A to B), the fullest penalty.

Participation in class discussions (including a group presentation on a chosen sonnet) is expected and attendance is mandatory. You can anticipate spot quizzes upon the readings. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. Your final grade will be based upon the following: 1) the midterm and final examinations are each worth 25%; 2) the term paper is worth 30%; and 3) your “attendance, participation, and performance upon both quizzes and in-class presentations” is worth a final 20%. Regarding attendance, you are permitted three absences without penalty; each subsequent absence will result in a significant subtraction from the twenty points allocated to the third (i.e., “attendance, participation…” portion of your grade (e.g., 20% to 17% for the fourth absence, 17% to 14% for the fifth absence, and so on). Late arrivals are frowned upon, and if you need, for good reason, to leave class early, you are asked to notify me at the beginning of the class.

University Plagiarism Warning:

Plagiarism is the representing of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. (See Student Conduct Code that follows in this section of the catalog.)

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism.

Student Conduct Code

The Student Conduct Code, embodying the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, human rights and responsible citizenship, governs all student conduct at The University of Montana-Missoula. Student enrollment presupposes a commitment to the principles and policies embodied in this Code. The Student Conduct Code sets forth University jurisdiction, student rights, standards of academic and general student conduct, disciplinary sanctions for breach of the standards of student conduct and procedures to be followed in adjudicating charges of both academic and general misconduct. The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for procedural administration of the Student Conduct Code for all general conduct. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for all academic conduct. Copies of the Student Conduct Code can be obtained from the offices of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Residence Life, and Associated Students of University of Montana-Missoula (ASUM). The Student Conduct Code also can be accessed on the Vice President for Student Affairs Conduct Code web page.