This course is an introductory study of seven of Shakespeare’s plays. We will begin with a comedy, *As You Like It*, and end with a romance, *The Winter’s Tale*, but for the most part we will concentrate on five of Shakespeare’s great tragedies: *Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, Macbeth,* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. We will devote much 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, larger meanings, and broader contexts. We will, too, trace connections among the plays we read, clarify the basic preoccupations expressed in the different genres in which Shakespeare works, and explore the distinctive ways in which Shakespeare represents the self. Above all we will try to understand, from a range of perspectives, what Shakespearean tragedy is all about.

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

- *As You Like It*
- *Hamlet*
- *Othello*
- *King Lear*
- *Macbeth*
- *Antony and Cleopatra*
- *The Winter’s Tale*
- Essays on Moodle
Map of Course

*There may be slight changes as we move along.
*Most of the essays are optional: but I may require that you read one or two of them.

T Aug 28  Introduction
R Sept 30  As You Like It

T Sept 4  As You Like It
Northrop Frye, “The Mythos of Spring: Comedy”

R Sept 6  As You Like It
Rosalie Colie, “Perspectives on Pastoral”

T Sept 11  Hamlet
Northrop Frye, “The Mythos of Autumn: Tragedy”

R Sept 13  Hamlet

T Sept 18  Hamlet
Elaine Showalter, “Representing Ophelia”

R Sept 20  Hamlet
Harold Goddard, chapter on Hamlet from The Meaning of Shakespeare

T Sept 25  Othello
R Sept 27  Othello

*** Paper I Due ***

T Oct 2  Othello
Tony Tanner, chapter on Othello in Prefaces to Shakespeare

R Oct 4  King Lear

T Oct 9  King Lear
*** Quiz I ***

R Oct 11  King Lear

Marjorie Garber, chapter on King Lear from Shakespeare After All

T Oct 16  King Lear

R Oct 18  King Lear

T Oct 23  Macbeth

R Oct 25  Macbeth

*** Paper II Due ***

T Oct 30  Macbeth

R Nov 1  Macbeth

T Nov 6  Election Day (no classes)

R Nov 8  Antony and Cleopatra

T Nov 13  Antony and Cleopatra

Harold Bloom, chapter on Antony and Cleopatra in Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human

R Nov 15  Antony and Cleopatra

T Nov 20  The Winter’s Tale

R Nov 22  Thanksgiving Break

T Nov 27  The Winter’s Tale

R Nov 29  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 Dec 4  
*The Winter’s Tale*

R Dec 6  
Review

***Final Paper: Due on Friday 7 December by 5:00 p.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/.