

San José State University

Fall 2014

Humanities/English & Comparative Literature

English 78: Introduction to Shakespeare

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Mark Dowdy
Office Location:	Faculty Offices 215
Telephone:	(408) (924-5063)
Email:	mark.dowdy@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TTh 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Class Days/Time:	TTh 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Classroom:	BBC 120
Prerequisite	Credit for Stretch I is a prerequisite for Stretch II.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Written Communication I (Area A2)

Course Format

This course combines traditional in-class with a significant online component. In order to participate in this class, you will need a computer with access to the internet. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Faculty Web Page and Canvas Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description: In this introductory class, we will read, watch, interpret, discuss, and even perform the dramatic works of William Shakespeare. The class will study a representative sampling of Shakespeare's plays, investigating the historical, cultural and religious contexts of his drama while also considering its relevance to our own world. We will pay particular attention to Shakespeare's language, to his use of literary and dramatic conventions, to the cultural and historical conditions under which he produced his plays, and to contemporary productions (film and television) of his works. Required work in this course includes two formal essays, two examinations (midterm and final), one class presentation, and daily informal writing assignments.

Texts (Available in the Spartan Bookstore)

Folger Library editions* of *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Winter's Tale*

*You may choose to use other editions of Shakespeare's plays. If you do, however, be advised that your text may differ from the one the rest of the class is using.

General Education: Student Learning Objectives

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- 1) Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
- 2) Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
- 3) Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
- 4) Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
- 5) Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Midterm and Final Examinations (SLOs 1-3, 5): There will be two in-class examinations – a midterm and a final. The in-class exams will consist of character identification, passage explication, short answer questions, and a longer (around 500 words) essay response.

Out-of-Class Essays (SLOs 1-5): There will be two formal essays due this semester. The first will be a 750-word movie review in which you assess a cinematic production of one of Shakespeare's plays. The second will be longer (1,500 words) and will be due at the end of the semester. This final essay will be a critical essay on a topic of your choice. Suggested topics for your final essay must be submitted to me for approval beforehand.

Participation (SLOs 1, 2, and 5): You should come to every class session prepared to speak. In order to do so, you must have read the assigned readings listed in the schedule *before* you come to class. Merely attending class is not enough to assure participation credit in this course. Moreover, for each class, please write an interpretive question relevant to the day's reading assignment. By "interpretive" I mean a question that is not factual in nature but which instead forces a reader to think about what's going on in the play and why. In addition to in-class activities, you will also have the opportunity to earn participation credit by posting on the discussion boards of the course's Canvas page.

Student Presentations (SLOs 1, 2, and 5): During the last week of the semester, we will be performing passages from Shakespeare selected by you and your peers. This is not an acting course, so I won't grade your performance per se. But I will assess the choices you make in your interpretation of the dramatic scene. Students may perform alone or in

groups. Each participant must speak at least 14 lines. At the end your presentation, you will be asked to explain your creative and interpretive choices to the class.

Department Grading Policy

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. Grades issued will represent a full range of student performance and will adhere to the following SJSU academic standards of assessment:

The “A” essay will be well organized and well developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment. It will show the student’s ability to use language effectively and construct sentences distinguished by syntactic complexity and variety. Such essays will be essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.

The “B” essay will demonstrate competence in the same categories as the “A” essay. The chief difference is that the “B” essay will show some descriptably slight weaknesses in one of those categories. It may slight one of the assigned tasks, show less facility of expression, or contain some minor grammatical, mechanical, or usage flaws.

The “C” essay will complete all tasks set by the assignment, but show weakness in fundamentals (usually development), with barely enough specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. The sentence construction may be less mature, and the use of language less effective and correct than the “B” essay.

The “D” essay will neglect one of the assigned tasks and be noticeably superficial in its treatment of the assignment—that is, too simplistic or short. The essay may reveal some problems in development, with insufficient specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. It will contain grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

The “F” essay will demonstrate a striking underdevelopment of ideas and insufficient or unfocused organization. It will contain serious grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

“The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A= excellent; B= above average; C= average; D= below average; F= failure. Courses graded according to the A, B, C, No Credit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC shall replace D or F. In such cases, NC shall also substitute for W (or Withdrawal) because neither grade (NC or W) affects students’ GPA.”

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of the ideas being conveyed. All student writing

should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. Note: This includes email notes to the instructor!

The Grade:

- Midterm Examination -- 15%
- Formal Essay #1: Movie Review -- 15%
- Final Exam -- 20%
- Student Presentation -- 10%
- Participation -- 20%
- Critical Essay -- 20%

Late Work: Unless you approach me in advance, late papers will be penalized 1/2 letter grade for each day late.

Classroom Protocol: To help foster a classroom environment in which everyone feels comfortable enough to participate, I will not tolerate blatant displays of disrespect towards your peers or towards me. There are ways to disagree with others respectfully and sincerely. In the unlikely event that anyone should exceed the boundaries of civility, he or she will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class session.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material."

If you wish to record one or more classroom activities, please send a request by email. I will allow you to make audio or video recordings in this class; however, if any students also make an active contribution in a classroom activity, you will need to obtain their permission as well.

Course material developed by the instructor are the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on



Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

English 78: Introduction to Shakespeare: Fall 2014, Course Schedule

This agenda is subject to change with fair notice. I will notify you in advance through in-class announcements and the Canvas messaging system, so please be sure to check Canvas before every class.

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	August 26	August 28
In Class	First Day of Class	<i>Richard III</i> , Act 1
2	September 2	September 4
In Class	<i>Richard III</i> , Act 2	<i>Richard III</i> , Act 3
3	September 9	September 11
In Class	<i>Richard III</i> , Act 4	<i>Richard III</i> , Act 5
4	September 16	September 18
In Class	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 1	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 2
5	September 23	September 25
In Class	<i>As You Like It</i> , Acts 3 and 4	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 5
6	September 30	October 2
In Class	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , Act 1	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , Act 2
7	October 7	October 9
In Class	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , Acts 3 and 4	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , Act 5
8	October 14	October 16
In Class	Midterm (Bring exam booklet)	<i>Othello</i> , Act 1
9	October 21	October 23
In Class	<i>Othello</i> , Act 2	<i>Othello</i> , Act 3
10	October 28	October 30
	<i>Othello</i> , Act 4; Film/Theater review due.	<i>Othello</i> , Act 5
11	November 4	November 6
In Class	<i>Macbeth</i> , Act 1	<i>Macbeth</i> , Act 2
12	November 11	November 13
In Class	<i>Holiday: Veteran's Day</i>	
13	November 18	November 20
In Class	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act 1	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act 2
14	November 25	November 27
In Class	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act 3	<i>Holiday: Thanksgiving</i>
15	December 2	December 4
In Class	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Acts 4 and 5	Film Screening
16	December 9	
In Class	Film Screening; Critical Essay due	

Final Exam: We will have a take-home final exam. The final will be administered over Canvas and must be completed by Wednesday, December 17, 9:30 a.m.