

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
ENGL 78: Introduction to Shakespeare

Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Adrienne Eastwood
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:45 a.m., Mondays, 3:00-5:00 p.m., and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall 348
Prerequisites:	N/A

Course Format

Lecture/Discussion

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page www.sjsu.edu/faculty/eastwood.

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the study of Shakespeare's plays, both in the context of their original (historical) performances during Shakespeare's time and its life on stage and screen in the ensuing centuries. Paying particular attention to modern productions, we will analyze the ways in which production elements such as setting, casting, staging, costuming, editing, and individual performances shape and create meaning (or fail to do so) for the audiences of today. Placing these plays within this context of performance will raise larger issues about the complex relationships between the Shakespearean canon and its ever-changing audiences. Students will respond to each Shakespearean play text through both writing and oral interpretation, integrating speech and dramatic performance with an understanding of the complexities of plot, characterization, and dramatic form.

Course Goals:

The primary goals of this course are to introduce you to several of Shakespeare's major works, and to encourage you to begin to imagine what life must have been like for Shakespeare and his audiences, as well as to get a sense of the enormous impact the professional theater had on Elizabethan culture. You will also gain from this course a general understanding of dramatic form (comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances), and a reading competence in Elizabethan English. Finally, I would like you to acquire an appreciation for the range of choices involved in performing—and therefore interpreting—a Shakespearean play.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Students who complete the General Education curriculum should be able to

GE LO 1 – Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.

GE LO 2 – Respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.

GE LO 3 – Write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness

OTHER: - Letters courses will enable students to recognize the role of diversity in culture and society

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Greenblatt, Stephen, ed. *The Norton Shakespeare: Essential Plays*, 3rd Edition. New York: Norton, 2009. ISBN 978-0393938630.

MLA Guidelines available here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Other Requirements

Film Viewing: There are several films (indicated on the schedule below) that you are required to view for this class. Unfortunately, there is not enough time to screen these during class; therefore, you are required to view these films as homework. These movies are widely available on Netflix and other streaming sites. If you are unable to find a movie, you may borrow the DVD from me. After viewing a required film, you must write up a short review of the production. Instructions for reviews are posted on my website at www.sjsu.edu/faculty/eastwood.

Classroom Protocol

Please arrive on time and have the materials read in full by the time we begin to discuss them in class. Regular attendance and active class participation are required. I reserve the right to assign quizzes and other written assignments throughout the semester. In order to participate fully in this class, you need to bring your book to every session (unless otherwise directed by me), and you need to follow along with the poetry and passages we are studying. Failure to bring your book may lead to your receiving a zero in participation for the day and being asked to leave.

Classroom Etiquette: Laptops, cell phones, or other computer devices have no place in this classroom. You must keep these devices put away while you are here. Electronic versions of Shakespeare's plays are inferior to

print and I will not permit their use as a substitution for the paper version. Digital resources may be accessed OUTSIDE of class, but not during,

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation: Because a large portion of this course involves discussion, workshops, and oral performances, regular attendance and active participation are imperative. Students will be expected to discuss the plays in detail, and to deliver and evaluate a variety of performances. (GELO 1)

Participation also includes bringing your book to class and following along as directed. In other words, OPEN your book. Maintain proper posture and a polite demeanor: this means appearing awake and conscious while in class.

Written Work: You will be asked to write two formal essays (1,000 words each) for this class. The first essay will require you to compare one aspect of at least two different film or stage versions of a play we will be reading for this class (GELO 2, GELO 3). The second essay will involve a research component (GELO 2).

Film Reviews: You will also write four reviews (500 words each) of all of the required films. The reviews will ask you to evaluate the production against your knowledge of the play itself (GELO 2). Detailed instructions will be distributed in advance of the first assignment.

Midterm: There will be a midterm exam taken in class at or around week 7. The exam will be comprised of identifications and a close-reading section.

Late Papers: Turning in assignments late is unfair to the other students and to me; therefore, I will lower your grade one full letter for each day the paper is late. In the case of emergencies, please see me. Papers are due at the beginning of class.

I do not accept emailed assignments under any circumstances.

Final Examination or Evaluation

A final exam will be given in class at the end of the semester involving close reading and identification of Shakespeare's text and an essay component. (GELO 1)

Grading Information

Specify your grading policy here. Provide rubrics and explain how grades are assessed and assigned. Allow multiple opportunities to give feedback on student learning. Use rubrics or examples to explain and show students how they can assess themselves or check their own learning. More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Determination of Grades

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation: (discussion & performances) 10% (GELO 1)
Essay 1: 15 % (GELO 2)
Essay 2: 20% (GELO 3)
Midterm: 15%: (GELO 1 and GELO 2)
Film Reviews: 20% (GELO 2)
Final Exam: 20 % (GELO 1)

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, you must complete all of the above assignments.

In ALL assignments, students will be graded on the depth of their knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare's works.

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined by the SJSU Catalog (Grades-Letter Grading).

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A+/A/A- = excellent; B+/B/B- = above average; C+/C/C- = average; D+/D/D- = below average; F = failure. Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a + or - grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Classroom Protocol

Course Requirements: Have the plays and supplementary materials read in full by the time we begin to discuss them in class. Regular attendance and active class participation are encouraged.

I reserve the right to assign quizzes and written assignments throughout the semester.

Cell phones, laptops, e-readers, and other devices will remain turned off and put away for the duration of the class period unless otherwise instructed by me.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

If applicable, include links to department and college-level policies, requirements and services.

ENGL 78 Reading Schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24	Introductions
2	8/29	Shakespeare's Life and Times (Read the introductory material in your anthologies). Introduction to the sonnet form.
2	8/31	Reading Shakespeare – Shakespeare's Sonnets. Read Sonnets 1-10, 78-80, 125-128, and 144.
3	9/5	LABOR DAY- NO CLASS
3	9/7	Reading Shakespeare – Shakespeare's Sonnets, continued.
4	9/12	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (Introduction, Induction, and Act 1)
4	9/14	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (Acts 2-3)
Required viewing: <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , dir. F. Zefferelli, 1967 (Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton). Review due 9/21		
5	9/19	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (Acts 4-5)
5	9/21	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (Prompts for Essay 1) REVIEW of <i>Shrew</i> Due
Required viewing: : <i>10 Things I Hate About You</i> . Review due		
6	9/26	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Introduction and Acts 1-3)
6	9/28	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Acts 4 & 5) - Review of <i>10 Things I Hate About You</i> Due
Recommended viewing: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , dir. Michael Hoffman, 1999 (Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer).		
7	10/3	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> – ESSAY 1 DUE
7	10/5	MIDTERM – Bring Blue Books
Required Viewing: <i>Othello</i> , dir. Oliver Parker, 1995 (Laurence Fishburne). Review due 10/17		
8	10/10	<i>Othello</i> (Introduction and Acts 1 & 2)
8	10/12	NO CLASS
9	10/17	<i>Othello</i> (Acts 3-5) (Prompts for Essay 2 Distributed) -- FILM REVIEW on <i>Othello</i> DUE
9	10/19	<i>Othello</i>
10	10/24	SCREEN "O"
10	10/26	SCREEN "O"
11	10/31	<i>Hamlet</i> - Introduction and Acts 1-2
11	11/2	<i>Hamlet</i> Acts 3-4 ESSAY 2 DUE
Recommended viewing: <i>Hamlet</i> , dir. K. Branagh.		
12	11/7	<i>Hamlet</i> Act 5
12	11/9	<i>Hamlet</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	11/14	<i>Macbeth</i> – Introduction and Act 1
13	11/16	<i>Macbeth</i> – Acts 2 and 3
14	11/21	<i>Macbeth</i> Acts 4 and 5
14	11/23	THANKSGIVING: NO SCHOOL
Required viewing: <i>Macbeth</i> , dir. Rupert Goold, 2010 (Patrick Stewart). Review due 11/30		
15	11/28	<i>The Tempest</i>
15	11/30	<i>The Tempest</i>
16	12/5	SCREEN <i>The Tempest</i> dir. J. Taymour.
16	12/7	SCREEN <i>The Tempest</i>
17	12/12	LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION
Final Exam	12/16 12:15. – 3:30 p.m.	Bring Blue Books