

## English 391 - 392 Shakespeare

Instructor: Ralph Pease, Professor  
Office: Evans 414  
Phone: 294-1436  
Office Hours: to be announced  
Teaching Schedule: to be announced  
Fax & e-mail: Please do not send me a fax or e-mail 1) that requires a reply 2) that concerns absences or tardies: fax# 294-1408;  
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**Course Objective:** The basic objective of this course is to advance students' knowledge and appreciation of Shakespearean drama. This is best accomplished, I believe, by a study of selected plays to determine just exactly what Shakespeare did that has kept his reputation intact for 400 years.

**Teacher's Responsibility:** It is my responsibility to determine appropriate reading and viewing assignments, to comment upon the significance of the content and style of the plays, and to evaluate--through written assignments and examinations--the academic proficiency of students in this course.

**Student's Responsibilities:** You are expected to attend class diligently (see below), to read assigned selections prior to classtime, to think about what is being studied and its relevance to the objectives of the course, and to meet minimum academic standards in your written work and assignments.

**Examinations:** There will be no less than two and no more than six examinations. These examinations will include a large number of "objective" questions (such as identification of titles and characters), so you must memorize some information in order to do well. There may also be "short answer" questions, which will be answered in short essay form. You will be given a chance to see your examinations after they are graded, but I keep all examinations. I will also inform the class of the high, low, and median grades of each examination so you will have an idea of your standing in the class.

**Papers:** There will be no outside papers this semester.

**Grading:** Examinations will be based on a numerical system with each question counting a set number of points. Essay sections will be given a subjective, numerical grade on content (organization, validity of argument, and textual evidence), and then numerical points will be subtracted for grammatical errors.

**Make-Up:** Make-up examinations will be given at a time and place convenient to me and will be adjusted to compensate for the extra time, which the student has had to prepare for the examination.

**Absences:** Your presence in class, while no guarantee of success, does indicate to me your interest in the course. I don't like for students to be absent for two more reasons: (1) Generally speaking, those who miss the most classes are those who need the most help. The relationship between absence and failure is rather remarkable, at least in my classes, and you should keep that in mind. (2) Absences create additional work for me. I don't know about you, but I don't need additional work. But you can determine just how often you should come to class--with one exception: I will not give a passing grade to any student who misses more than 6 hours in the semester except under the most extraordinary circumstances.

**Entering Late and Leaving Early:** Generally speaking, attendance will be taken at the first of the class period. If you enter after attendance has been taken, you must notify me of that fact in writing at the end of the class period. If you must leave early, you must notify me of that fact in writing at the first of the class period. The notification should include: 1) your name; 2) the course and section number 3) the date 4) the time you entered or intend to leave. No reason for being late or leaving early is necessary. Any combination of **three** (leaving early twice and entering late once etc.) will constitute a class absence.

**Plagiarism:** Any student who turns in work which is (1) written by another student, (2) copied from another student's work, or (3) plagiarized from another written source will receive a grade of "F" in the course.

### **Grading Scale:**

65 - 70 = D

81 - 90 = B

71 - 80 = C

91 - 100 = A

**Pease's Final, Dogmatic House Rules:** No use of tobacco in class, no wearing of hats during examination; no sleeping in class; no talking during lecture, discussion, or the showing of films. Those opposed to any of these rules will be wise to schedule another teacher.

### **Recommended Textbooks:**

The Folger Library General Reader's Shakespeare (edited by Wright and La Mar) published by Pocket Books in the various individual editions. Easy to carry, but very little background information.

Richard III Or The Necessary Shakespeare, edited by David Bevington (Longman: New York, 2002). About 1,000 pages in paperback form. Good background but does not include all the plays.

The Complete Works of Shakespeare, 4<sup>th</sup> edition updated, edited by David Bevington (Longman: New York, 1997). Hardcover and heavy, but all of Shakespeare's work is included with charts and bibliographies and historical comment: more than you can ever master but a wonderful, lifetime source book. The most expensive book but probably the best buy.