

**English 392W
Studies in Shakespeare
Comedies and Romances
Summer I, 2008**

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Course Description:

The purpose of English 392 is to read and discuss a number of Shakespeare's comedies and romances, from the early years of his career to the festive comedies of the 1590s, from the so-called "dark comedies" of the 1600s to the romances which he wrote in the last years of his career.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To study how Shakespeare manipulated the various connections and structures of comedy to create quite different effects in each of his plays.
- 2) To investigate the historical and cultural backgrounds of his plays as well as an awareness of recurrent motifs in the plays.
- 3) To analyze and evaluate the philosophical insights of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.
- 4) To discuss the recurrent themes and common concerns of Shakespeare's plays.

Selected Readings:

- 1) As You Like It
- 2) Twelfth Night
- 3) The Merchant of Venice
- 4) Measure for Measure
- 5) The Tempest

Text:

(To be announced in class.)

Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading assignments and writing situations will be given over the readings and background. These assignments are announced in class. These assignments will be averaged and evaluated as a major grade. No make-ups will be given; however, the lowest grade will be dropped for each student.
- 2) 3 major examinations will be given in class. These examinations will require writing about the material as well as analysis.
- 3) Consideration will be given for class participation and discussion.

Absence Policy:

The University bulletin stresses the importance of punctuality and “regular” attendance. In order to adhere to their guidelines, I have adopted the following absence policy for my classes:

- 1) A student is allowed three (3) absences during the semester without any penalty being imposed. (This absence without penalty does not apply to any work missed).
- 2) If a student misses four (4) to five (5) meetings during the session, the student will be penalized two (2) points.
- 3) After a student misses six (6) classes during the semester, he or she will not receive credit for the course.
- 4) If a student has maintained a perfect attendance for the entire session, he or she will have three (3) points added to the final grade in the course.

Grading System:

All grades are based on a 100 point scale: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F. All work must be completed and turned in on time or you fail by default.

Your final course grade will be calculated and averaged as follows:

- 1) Average of reading assignments and writing will be 1 component
- 2) 3 major exams will be 3 components

I add the grade of each component and divide by the total number of components to determine your final grade. The last consideration given for grade distribution is to include points for perfect attendance or to subtract points for lack of attendance.