

English 578.01 (Shakespeare Adapted to Film)

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Professor of English

Teaching Schedule:

9-10, 1-2 MWF; 6-9 W (University Center)
2:00-3:20 T, 2-5 TH

Office Hours:

10-12 Monday through Friday and by appointment

Leave messages at 936/294-1436. Please do not leave e-mail messages concerning tardies or absences; do not leave messages which require a reply.

Course Objectives: A full description of the problems inherent in transferring Shakespeare's stage plays to motion picture film has already been distributed to the class, along with genealogical charts of some of the royal families discussed in the plays. Our objective this semester is two-fold: (1) to further our knowledge of Shakespeare's plays, and (2) to further develop our appreciation for the possibilities and limitations of transferring one art form (stage) to another art form (film).

Teacher's Responsibilities: 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 classes diligently, to read assigned selections prior to class time, to think about what is being studied and viewed, and to evaluate its relevance to the objectives of the course, and to meet minimum academic standards in your written assignments and examinations.

Absences: Your presence in class, while no guarantee of success, does indicate to me your interest in this 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 and I don't need any additional work. Therefore, I will not give a passing grade to any student who misses more than six hours in the long term 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 that 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) English 578; (3) the date; (4) the time you entered. 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.

Examinations: There will be no less than two and no more than six examinations, each of equal weight. These examinations will include a number of “objective” questions so you must memorize some information to do well. There may also be “short answer” and “essay” questions on these examinations. Examinations will be scored numerically; the numerical average of these examinations will constitute your semester grade. There will be no statistical adjustment (i.e. “curve”) applied to examination scores. You will be given a chance to see all examinations in class after they are graded, but I will keep all examinations. I will announce the high, median, and low grades of each examination so you can evaluate your progress in the class.

In addition to outside reading, you will be responsible for all materials, lectures, handouts and films covered during the regularly scheduled class periods.

Papers: There may be two to four papers: at least one will be written in class. Papers are due at the beginning of the class period for which it is assigned. Late papers will have their grade reduced 10 points for each academic day late. (See below) All work submitted for a grade must be written in dark ink or typed on one side of 8 ½ x 11” paper. Please note: I will not pass any student in this class who fails to meet my minimum standards for written English.

Grading: Examinations will be based on a numerical system with each question counting a set number of points. Papers 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.

Semester Grading Scale:

91 – 100 = A

81 – 90 = B

71 – 80 = C

65 – 70 = D

Make-Up: An out-of-class writing assignment is due at the beginning of the class hour of the due date. Absence from class on the due date does not constitute an excuse; therefore, late papers will be accepted solely on my whim. They will, however, always receive a reduction in grade of at least one letter per academic day. 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.

A Very Important Note: I do not like for students to be absent on a scheduled examination date and discourage such practices two ways: First, all make-up exams will be taken at a time and place designated solely by me. Second, the make-up examination will be adjusted to allow for the extra time which the student has had; in other words, it will be more thorough than the first examination and will include an essay section. If you

must miss an examination, notify me before the scheduled time by leaving a message at 294-1436. Failure to show up for an examination without prior notice can result in a grade of “F” on the examination.

Plagiarisms: Any student who turns in work which is written by another student, copied from another student’s work, or plagiarized from another source, will receive a semester grade of “F” in the course.

Pease’s Final, Dogmatic House Rules: No use of tobacco in class; no sleeping in class; No talking during lecture, during the viewing of films or during class discussion; excessive tardiness or early departures will be counted-at my whim-as hours absent; all written work submitted for credit must be done in dark ink or typed. Those opposed to any of these rules should not take this course.

Textbook: The plays of Shakespeare (any unabridged edition). Suggested: The Complete Works of Shakespeare. Edited by David Bevington (4th edition, updated), Harper Collins, 1997. (Earlier editions are also quite good.) The Folger Library series (individual paperbacks)