

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ENGL 25 - Introduction to Shakespeare

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course introduces students to Shakespeare, his works, and his world through lecture, reading, projects, and discussion. This course analyzes representative tragedies, comedies, histories, and sonnets. Graded only.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze themes within course texts and compare them to the ways these themes are treated in other course texts.
- B. Synthesize analyses of specific details in particular works of literature in support of a clear, overall point or thesis.
- C. Identify, employ and evaluate different frameworks for analyzing and interpreting literature. These frameworks may include political, socioeconomic, geographical, ethnic, cultural, ecological, psychoanalytical, historical, gender, sexuality, and genre development.
- D. Identify and discuss representative Shakespearean tragedies, comedies, histories, romances and sonnets.
- E. Summarize the facts about Shakespeare as a man and as a writer.
- F. Describe the development of Shakespeare's works and identify Renaissance themes in the plays and sonnets.
- G. Summarize and discuss how English history, politics, and culture interrelate to shape the "golden age" of English drama, including contributions of contemporaries.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Cultural history of Renaissance England	2.00
2. Political history of Renaissance England	2.00
3. Shakespeare's life	1.00
4. The theater in Elizabethan and Stuart England	1.00
5. Shakespeare's literary contemporaries	1.00
6. Poetry and The Shakespearean sonnet	4.00
7. Comedies by Shakespeare	10.00
8. Histories by Shakespeare	10.00
9. Tragedies by Shakespeare	10.00
10. Romances by Shakespeare	10.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Field Trips
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Reading Assignments
- E. Analytical Research Projects (Students are expected to write a minimum of 5000 words for this course.)
- F. Methods may also include one or more of the following:
 - 1. interactive journals
 - 2. student oral presentations
 - 3. multi-media presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Research Projects
- B. Oral Presentation
- C. Class participation
- D. Mid-term and final examinations
- E. Essays and research papers
- F. Class Discussion

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. As you read Henry V, choose two speeches of at least 100 words in each act to paraphrase into modern English. Make sure to use the glossary at the bottom of the pages.
 - 2. Read Bevington's introduction to The Tempest and complete the reading response, quoting from specific scenes throughout.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Select a film based on a Shakespeare play and write a minimum 1000 word essay contrasting the two. Your thesis should reflect on the director's choices and how it represents themes of Shakespeare.
 - 2. Choose one sonnet and paraphrase it. You will be reading it aloud in class and addressing three of its elements.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Attend one live performance of a Shakespeare play or watch one video of a Shakespeare play, taking notes on actors' and director's interpretation of the play. You will fill out a worksheet while watching explaining aspects of plot, character, and setting that the production incorporates.
 - 2. With a partner, memorize one medium-length two-person scene and work out stage movements and accompanying expressions and emotional beats. Be prepared to present your scene during a designated class session. You will be introducing the purpose and context of your scene and explaining the significance of your roles beforehand.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Bevington, David. The Necessary Shakespeare. 4th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. The instructor may choose to utilize Signet Classic editions (or other reputable editions) of the

works to be studied, supplemented by historical and cultural, and critical readings from various authors, such as Harold Bloom, Helen Vendler, Stephen Greenblatt, etc.

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Date: 11/17/2014