

English 311: Shakespeare
Professor Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: 2:00 to 4:00 M, W, Th and by appointment

Office Phone: 4-8372

Home Phone: (770) 784-8269

Texts:

I have ordered the Signet editions of the plays identified on the syllabus below. They are easy to handle, of course, and they are full of good supplementary material. You may use other scholarly editions of the plays if you wish (after you check out their scholarly quality with me), but be advised that if you do so, you will have some trouble finding the pages of passages we discuss in class and you also will have to borrow a Signet occasionally in order to read any supplementary material which I might assign.

Class Schedule:

Aug. 31 introduction to the course

Sept. 03 Labor Day
05 A Midsummer Night's Dream
07 MND

10 MND; facilitation 1
12 Much Ado About Nothing

[pizza and video of Much Ado About Nothing on Wednesday evening, September 12, or Thursday evening, September 13]

14 MAAN; facilitation 2

17 The Merchant of Venice
19 MOV; possible essay 1 due (MND, MAAN, MOV)

[live performance of The Merry Wives of Windsor by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Thursday evening, September 20]

21 MOV; facilitation 3

24 Measure for Measure
26 MforM; possible essay 1 due (MND, MAAN, MOV, MforM)
28 comparison and contrast day

Oct. 01 Richard III
03 RIII; facilitation 4

[pizza and video of Richard III on Wednesday evening, October 3, or Thursday evening, October 4]

05 scenes day

Oct. 08 Henry the Fourth, Part One
10 1HIV; possible essay 2 due (MOV, MforM, RIII)

[pizza and video of Henry the Fifth on Wednesday evening, October 10, or Thursday evening, October 11]

12 1HIV; facilitation 5

15 Fall Break

17 Julius Caesar; possible essay 2 due (MOV, MforM, RIII, 1HIV)

19 JC; facilitation 6

22 comparison and contrast day

24 Hamlet

26 H; facilitation 1

[pizza and video of Hamlet on Sunday evening, October 28, or Monday evening, October 29]

29 H; facilitation 2

31 H; possible essay 3 due (1HIV, JC, H)

[video of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead on Wednesday evening, October 31, or Thursday evening, November 1]

Nov. 02 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

05 Othello

07 O; facilitation 3

[video of opera Otello on Wednesday evening, November 7, or Thursday evening, November 8]

09 O; facilitation 4

12 scenes day

14 Macbeth

16 M; possible essay 3 due (JC, H, R&G, O)

[live performance of Measure for Measure by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Sunday evening, November 18]

19 M; facilitation 5

21 comparison and contrast day

THANKSGIVING

26 King Lear

28 KL

30 KL; possible essay 4 due (H, R&G, O, M, KL)

[live performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream by Oxford's own OESA on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, November 29 and 30 and December 1]

Dec. 03 The Winter's Tale

05 WT; facilitation 6

07 The Tempest

10 T; possible essay 4 due (M, KL, WT, T); last day of class

[pizza and video of The Forbidden Planet on Monday evening, December 10, or Tuesday evening, December 11]

14 possible make-up essay due by 5:00 on Friday (on any of the plays you have not yet written on)

17 final exam, 9:00-12:00 Monday

Policy on Attendance:

You may have two absences with no penalty (though you will be considered responsible for work done or due in class on any day you miss for any reason and responsible for informing yourself about any assignments or announcements made on days which you miss). Absences three and four will count one point each off of your final grade in the course. Absences five and six will count two points each off. Further absences will count three and one third points each off of your final grade. Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse an absence. You should inform me about the latter ahead of time.

Policy on Late Work:

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse late written work. Work whose lateness is unexcused will lose one letter grade for each calendar day it is late. After four days, unexcused late work will not be accepted at all and will receive a zero. And note that such a zero may not be made up with a make-up essay.

A student who missed scheduled facilitation of class discussion and who has a valid excuse for doing so will be allowed to make up that facilitation at a later date. (Note, though, that a student who knows he or she will miss facilitation should make every effort to recruit another facilitator to take his or her place.) A student who lacks a valid excuse for a missed facilitation will receive an F in that portion of the class participation grade.

A student who misses scheduled participation in a scene or scenes from one of the plays and who has a valid excuse for doing so will be required to write a short essay on the scene or scenes involved to make up for the missed presentation. A student who has no valid excuse for missing a presentation will receive an F in that portion of the coursework (see below).

Determination of Final Grade:

You will be graded (in part) on four essays (of a minimum of 750 words each). You must submit these essays in accordance with the schedule of possible due dates indicated on the syllabus. Each of these essays will be worth 15% of your grade in the course.

Should you be dissatisfied with your performance on any one of these essays, you may submit a fifth essay, a make-up essay, on any play (we have read) you have not already written upon. This make-up essay will be due (as indicated) on Friday, December 14, by 5:00 p.m. I will count your best four essays towards your final grade.

The course will conclude with a final exam which will be worth another 15% of your grade.

Another 10% of your grade will reflect the enthusiasm and intelligence of your participation in the presentation of a scenes from one of the plays to the rest of the class.

A final 15% of your grade will be based on the frequency and quality of your on-going class participation-- in the form of both contributions to in-class discussions and contributions to on-line discussions in the Learnlink conference for the 311 class—and also on the quality of your facilitation of class discussion upon the two occasions when you are required to facilitate .

You may also earn up to three points of extra credit (to be added to your average in the course) by seeing productions of Shakespeare plays or Shakespeare-related plays. These are best seen live, of course, and we will have the opportunity to see a number of productions live, but they may also be seen as movies, TV shows, and videos. Video versions of most of the plays we read and of related material are available on campus or will be made available. You may also rent your own videos. You will earn 1/2 point for each production you see in any form. Just keep track of what you see (and when) and turn in a list at the end of the semester.

Note that throughout the semester and at the end I will be assigning grades based on the plus/minus grading system.

Note, too, that the Honor Code will apply to every assignment in this class. Your name on an assignment will constitute acknowledgement that you have done that assignment in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code.