

English 311: Shakespeare

Professor Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

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

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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 26 introduction to the course
 Aug 28 A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Aug 31 MND
 Sept 02 MND [evening: production of Comedy of Errors at Emory]
 Sept 04 MND
- Sept 07 Labor Day
 Sept 09 The Merchant of Venice
 Sept 11 MOV
- Sept 14 MOV; possible essay 1 due (MND ~~and/or 28~~ and/or MOV)
 Sept 16 Much Ado About Nothing [evening: pizza and video of MAAN]
 Sept 18 MAAN
- Sept 21 MAAN; possible essay 1 due (MND and/or MOV and/or MAAN)
 Sept 23 Twelfth Night
 Sept 25 TN
- Sept 28 TN; possible essay 1 due (MOV and/or MAAN and/or TN)
 Sept 30 Two Gentlemen of Verona
 Oct 01 [evening: production of TGV at Atlanta Shakespeare Company]
 Oct 02 Measure for Measure; possible essay 2 due (TN and/or TGV)
- Oct 05 MFM
 Oct 07 Richard III
 Oct 09 RIII; possible essay 2 due (TN and/or TGV and/or MFM and/or RIII)
- Oct 12 Fall Break
 Oct 14 Henry the Fourth, Part One
 Oct 16 1HIV
- Oct 19 1HIV; possible essay 2 due (MFM and/or RIII and/or 1HIV)

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Oct 21 Julius Caesar
 Oct 23 JC

 Oct 26 JC
 Oct 28 preparation for exam
 Oct 30 exam

 Nov 02 Hamlet
 Nov 04 H
 Nov 06 H

 Nov 09 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead
 Nov 11 Othello
 Nov 13 O

 Nov 16 O; possible essay 3 due (JC and/or H and/or O)
 Nov 18 King Lear
 Nov 17 [evening: production of King Lear at Atlanta Shakespeare Company]
 Nov 20 KL

 Nov 23 KL; possible essay 3 due (H and/or O and/or KL)

THANKSGIVING

Nov 30 Macbeth
 Dec 02 M
 Dec 04 M; possible essay 3 due (O and/or KL and/or M)

 Dec 07 last class; The Tempest

 Dec 09 reading day; possible make-up essay due (KL and/or M and/or T)

 Dec 15 final exam, Tuesday, 2:00-5:00

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.

Determination of Final Grade:

You will be graded (in part) on three essays (of a minimum of 1000 words each). You must submit two of these essays before the mid-semester exam and one after-- in accordance with the schedule of possible due dates indicated on the syllabus. Each of these essays will be worth 20% of your grade in the course.

Should you be dissatisfied with your performance on any one of these essays, you may submit a fourth essay, a make-up essay, on one or more of the last three plays we will read. This make-up essay will be due (as indicated) on Reading Day, December 9. I will count your best three essays towards your final grade.

The course will include a mid-semester exam, which will be worth 15% of your grade, and it will conclude with a final exam which will be worth another 15% of your grade.

A final 10% 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.

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. I will make video versions of most of the plays we read and of related material available on campus every week. You may also rent your own. You will earn 1/2 point for each production you see in any form. Just keep track of what you see 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.