

Fall 2000
English 311

English 311: Shakespeare
Professor Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall
Office Hours: 2:00 to 4:00 M, 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 30 introduction to the course
Sept 01 A Midsummer Night's Dream

04 Labor Day
06 MND
08 MND

11 The Taming of the Shrew
13 TS

[live performance of The Taming of the Shrew by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Thursday evening, September 14, or Sunday evening, September 17]

15 TS; possible essay 1 due (MND, TS)

18 Much Ado About Nothing
20 MAAN

[pizza and video of Much Ado About Nothing on Monday evening, September 18, or Wednesday evening, September 20]

22 MAAN; possible essay 1 due (MND, TS, MAAN)

25 The Merchant of Venice
27 MOV
29 MOV; possible essay 2 due (MAAN, MOV)

Oct 02 As You Like It
04 AYLI; possible essay 2 due (MAAN, MOV, AYLI)
06 scenes day

[live performance of Doctor Faustus by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Sunday evening, October 8]

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Oct 09 Henry the Fourth, Part One
 11 1HIV

[pizza and video of Henry the Fifth on Wednesday evening, October 11, or Thursday evening, October 12]

13 1HIV; possible essay 2 due (MOV, AYLI, 1HIV)

16 Fall Break
 18 Julius Caesar
 20 JC

23 JC
 25 Hamlet
 27 H; possible essay 3 due (1HIV, JC)

[pizza and video of Hamlet on Sunday evening, October 29, or Monday evening, October 30]

Nov 30 H
 01 H
 03 H; possible essay 3 due (JC, H)

06 Othello
 08 O
 10 O; possible essay 3 due (JC, H, O)

13 scenes day
 15 Macbeth
 17 M

20 M; possible essay 4 due (H, O, M)

THANKSGIVING

27 King Lear
 29 KL

Dec 01 KL; possible essay 4 due (O, M, KL)

[live performance of Julius Caesar by Oxford's own OESA on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, November 30 and December 1 and 2]

04 Antony and Cleopatra
 06 A&C

[live performance of Antony and Cleopatra by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Thursday evening, December 7]

08 A&C

11 The Tempest; possible essay 4 due (KL, A&C, T); last day of class

[pizza and video of The Forbidden Planet on Monday evening, December 11, or Tuesday evening, December 12]

Dec 13; reading day; possible make-up essay due by 5:00 on Wednesday (on any play you have not yet written on)

Dec 15 final exam, 9:00-12:00 Friday

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 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 Wednesday, December 13, 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.

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.