LCC 3228 F: Shakespeare Shannon Dobranski

term Skiles 330, (404) 385-0625

time office hours: MW 2-3:30

location shannon.dobranski@lcc.gatech.edu

**LMC 3228 Shakespeare**

**Prerequisite and Course Attributes**

Prerequisite: ENGL 1102

This course satisfies the Core Area C Humanities/Fine Arts requirement.

**Description**

This class will introduce you to William Shakespeare: his life, his times, his working environment, and—most importantly—his plays, which have earned him his well-deserved reputation as the greatest writer in the English language. In the next sixteen weeks we will read a sampling of those plays, and, through readings and lectures, we will discover ways to appreciate Shakespeare’s entertainments as isolated works of art and as products of a specific place and time. By the end of the semester, you will have joined a centuries-old discourse about Shakespeare and will be able to read, watch, discuss, analyze, and write about his plays with confidence.

**Learning Outcomes**

After taking LCC 3228, students will be able to

* Position the works of Shakespeare in their historical and literary context.
* Describe the conventions of early modern playgoing and theater practice.
* Analyze Shakespeare’s plays to reveal meaning beyond an expression of plot.
* Read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
* Recognize a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
* Recognize the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.

**Texts**

*Much Ado About Nothing*

*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

*The Merchant of Venice*

*Hamlet*

*Macbeth*

*Richard II*

*Henry V*

*King Lear*

*The Tempest*

I have ordered Pelican editions of Shakespeare’s plays because they are more portable and less expensive than a compilation of Shakespeare’s complete works. If you already own copies of the plays, you may substitute any edition, as long as the play appears in the original, early modern English (i.e., it has not been modernized) and the editor includes footnotes to help you with difficult vocabulary. I have assigned additional readings on library reserve.

**Requirements**

Daily Homework and Classwork: You will be expected to complete the readings for each class day and arrive prepared to discuss those readings intelligently. Working collaboratively in discussion is one of the most effective and enjoyable ways of learning. Please participate.

QUIZZES: To appreciate the beauty and complexity of Shakespeare's work, you must thoughtfully read the plays. To encourage active reading, I will distribute frequent pop quizzes over the day's assignment. Quizzes may also include questions about the assigned readings on electronic reserve.

EXAMS: A midterm and final exam will test your ability to recall information from the plays, interpret significant passages, and synthesize information in an essay format. The final may be comprehensive and will follow the same format as the midterm.

Papers: Educated people in the age of print have traditionally shared complicated ideas through essays. I will ask you to continue that tradition by writing a brief essay in which you interpret an aspect of one of Shakespeare's comedies. A final, longer essay will require you to analyze one of Shakespeare’s tragedies.

Late Work: Papers are due at the beginning of class on the designated date. I will accept late papers but will assess a 5-point deduction for each class day the paper is overdue. Major papers more than a week late will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0. **Students who do not complete each major assignment will receive a grade of "F" for the course.**

**Grades**

Your final grade will be determined by the following assignments:

a 2- to 3-page literary interpretation of a comedy 15%

a 6- to 8-page literary interpretation of a tragedy 25%

a midterm exam 20%

a final exam 20%

quizzes 20%

**Students with Disabilities**

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation for any sort of disability, please make an appointment to see me during my office hours. The Office of Disability Services for Students offers a variety of resources for students with disabilities. Learn more about the ADAPTS program here: http://adapts.gatech.edu.

**Honor Code**

The penalties for plagiarism (submitting other people's words or ideas as your own) are severe. I will report all cases of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Integrity. Please adhere to the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. You may review that code at [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu).

**Schedule**

1/12 Introduction: Syllabus and Policy Statement

1/14 *Much Ado About Nothing*, Acts I-II

1/19 *Much Ado About Nothing*, Acts III-IV

1/21 *Much Ado About Nothing*, Act V

“The Theatrical World,” Pelican Shakespeare *Much Ado*, ix-xxiii

1/26 *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Acts I-II

“The Sixteenth Century,” “The Early Seventeenth Century,” electronic reserve

1/28 *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Acts III-IV

2/2 *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Acts V

2/4 *The* *Merchant of Venice*, Acts I-II

2/9 *The* *Merchant of Venice*, Acts III-IV

2/1 *The* *Merchant of Venice*, Act V

2/16 **Paper #1 due: a literary interpretation of MA or MND (2-3 pages)**

*Richard II*, Acts I-II

2/18 *Richard II*, Acts III-IV

2/23 *Richard II*, Act V

2/25 *Henry V*, Acts I-II

3/2 *Henry V*, Acts III-IV

3/4 *Henry V*, Act V

Midterm review

3/9 **Midterm Exam**

3/11 *Macbeth*, Act I

3/16 *Macbeth*, Acts II-III

3/18 *Macbeth*, Acts IV-V

3/23 Spring break

3/25 Spring break

3/30 *Hamlet*, Acts I-II

4/1 *Hamlet*, Acts III-IV

4/6 *Hamlet*, Act V

4/8 *King Lear*, Acts I

4/13 *King Lear*, Acts II-III

4/15 *King Lear*, Acts IV-V

4/20 **Paper #2 due: a literary interpretation of a tragedy (6-8 pages)**

*The Tempest*, Act I

4/22 *The Tempest*, Acts II-III

4/27 *The Tempest*, Acts IV-V

“’This Thing of Darkness I Acknowledge Mine’: *The Tempest* and the Discourse of Colonialism,” electronic reserve

4/29 “Shakespeare’s *Tempest* and the Discourse of Colonialism,” electronic reserve

Conclusion

Final exam time and date TBA