



500 Wilcox Street  
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[www.stfrancis.edu](http://www.stfrancis.edu)

**Course:** ENGL-372A (CRN 10949)  
Semester: Fall, 2022  
Time & Location: Fully asynchronous online

**Materials:** All of Shakespeare's works are available through the Shakespeare Folger Library [website](#)—any other supplementary materials will be made available on the Canvas course shell for this seminar.

**Professor:** Dr. Kevin Andrew Spicer  
Associate Professor  
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**USF Mission Statement:**

As a Catholic university rooted in the liberal arts, we are a welcoming community of learners challenged by Franciscan values and charism, engaged in a continuous pursuit of knowledge, faith, wisdom, and justice, and ever mindful of a tradition that emphasizes reverence for creation, compassion, and peacemaking. We strive for academic excellence in all programs, preparing women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership.

**College Mission Statement:**

Embracing excellence in its diverse disciplines of study, the College of Arts and Sciences serves as the home, shepherd, and guardian of Franciscan liberal arts values for the University. It serves to inspire in its students a love of learning through continual investigation, nurturing of curiosity, exploration, discovery, and sharing that leads to the passionate life as a servant leader. The College provides a rich environment of inspiration, learning, and service to prepare its students to build their future through programs and opportunities that represent the values of our Catholic/Franciscan University mission.

**Course Description:**

Provides the student with a broad understanding of one of the world's most revered authors through the study of selected poems and plays. This is a core requirement for English majors of all concentrations. For English Language Arts only, it fulfills the period requirement in the Renaissance. This course is considered an advanced literature course.

### **Course Objectives/Outcomes:**

*Nota bene:* For course objectives, the following list was developed by a group of students back in Fall of 2016, students in this new incarnation of the course (Fall 2022) will discuss as a group and see if there are some that should be altered, amended, added to, etc. Over the course of the semester we will make these aims more nuanced as we go.

1. When given a list of Shakespeare plays, be able to say something about more than just five of them.
2. Be able to utilize Shakespeare's plays as a kind of "guide for living." When the moment seems right to proffer one's knowledge of Shakespeare, one will be more than able to do so (a "lifelong learning outcome" to be sure).
3. To be able to see the roots of numerous modern works of art and/or cultural products in the plays of Shakespeare.
4. To be able to tell the difference—and argue this as well—between a good Shakespeare play and a "not-so-good" one.
5. For those who have taken Critical Theory (ENGL400), be able to apply your theoretical knowledge to the plays of Shakespeare (Dr. Spicer). (For those yet to take this course, Dr. Spicer will often provide theoretical paradigms in class; these can also be utilized by students whose theoretical background is not as extensive as others.)
6. Begin, or continue to improve, one's ability to closely read literary texts. In other words, develop and cultivate a sensitivity to and awareness of the machinery of language (word choice, rhetorical trope, polysemia of language, etc). We will see this skill in action through a number of different avenues or "skills" (Dr. Spicer):
  - a. by directly citing the text being read;
  - b. by tarrying over key passages that require some degree of interpretation/response;
  - c. by demonstrating an awareness that passages are *made relevant* through a reader's close attention to these passages (in other, there is no such thing as an *a priori* relevant passage: "relevance" is *made*, not necessarily self-evidently discovered.

### **Course Requirements:**

**Students will be expected to:**

- 1.) Read the assigned texts;
- 2.) Participate in class discussions;
- 3.) Complete weekly discussion board assignments;
- 4.) Complete the Final Project (more information will be available on Canvas).

### **Course Schedule/Outline:**

See below.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

- 1.) Weekly Discussion Board assignments;
- 2.) Final Project.

**Grading Scale:** Standard USF Grading Scale for CAS.

### **Course Evaluations/Surveys**

Information gleaned from course evaluations is an important part of maintaining quality and continuous improvement in courses. The University's expects students to thoughtfully participate in this anonymous evaluation process.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

*The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and class schedule as circumstances may warrant during the semester.*

*Students are expected to follow all policies in the USF Catalog and Student Handbook, both of which can be found in the student portal.*

*Policies not covered in this document will be handled in accordance with the USF Catalog and/or Student Handbook.*

### **INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

The student should use the USF portal as the first resource for guidance and support on items such as student complaints, safety, security and transportation questions, contact information for various USF departments, student support services such as counseling and academic resources. Information on these resources can be found in the "For Students" section of the USF portal.

A complete listing of university policies and procedures can be found in the University of St. Francis Course Catalog and Student Handbook. For the most current version of the catalog, please visit <http://stfrancis.edu/academics/university-catalog>

For the 2020-21 Academic Year, students are expected to be familiar with and follow the various procedures and guidelines outlined in USF's COVID-19 Responses, including the "Guidelines for the Fall 2020 Opening" booklet, "University of St. Francis Preparedness Plan," and materials incorporated in the Saints United resource hub (<https://www.stfrancis.edu/saints-united/>).

Academic related guidance can be found in this latter source under the *Academic Experiences (In-Person and Remote)* heading and includes the minimum technology requirements students must meet to successfully participate in all course modalities.

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Collaboration is only acceptable when it is explicitly acknowledged. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses. Since a lack of integrity hinders the student's academic development, it cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Violations include but are not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. See the USF Catalog for further clarification and information on grievance procedures.

#### **Services and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act):**

The University strives to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA). A student who requires special accommodations or arrangements due to a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services. This contact preferably should occur no later than the first week of classes. Early contact before the semester starts is encouraged to allow sufficient time to provide accommodations. Extra time is needed for some types of accommodations such as sign language interpreters or special text formatting. Should a need arrive after the start of a semester; the student is encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible.

Note that accommodations are not retroactive. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

The University of St. Francis is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs, regardless of the course format. If you have a documented disability and need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this course, complete course requirements, or benefit from the University's programs or services, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as soon as possible at 815-740-3204 or Sarah Alag at [salag@stfrancis.edu](mailto:salag@stfrancis.edu). The Office of Disability Services is located on the second floor of the LaVerne and Dorothy Brown Library building room L214. Consultations are also available, please contact ODS for an appointment.

### **Academic Support Services:**

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) located in Room L214 in the Library (815-740-5060) offers various types of academic services. Online and distance learning students can contact ARC for appropriate resources. ARC serves students who need tutoring in many areas of study including writing and math. Library services include a number of online services and full text databases. Call the Library at 815-740-5041 for additional information. If you need academic-related resources or assistance, please contact the Academic Resource Center.

### **Notice of Copyright**

This course may contain copyrighted materials that are intended to support the learning experiences of students currently enrolled in the course. No student may retain or further disseminate any copyrighted materials, in their entirety or any portion thereof, under penalty of law.

### **Technology Support**

1. The Department of Academic Technology (DAT) administers the learning management system Canvas. If you are experiencing any difficulty using Canvas or need technical assistance, you have several options to receive support, including:
  - a. 24x7 Live Canvas Support. If you experience technical difficulties or have a question about Canvas, you can receive support 24 hours a day 7 days a week through the Canvas help menu. From the help menu, select **Chat with Canvas Support** for a "live" text-based click-to-chat session,
  - b. select **Report a Problem** to send an email support request, or speak to someone directly by using the toll-free number listed under the Canvas Support Hotline.

**NOTE:** Responses to Canvas' email-based Report a Problem request system will go to your USF [stfrancis.edu](mailto:stfrancis.edu) email account, NOT your personal email.

2. Online Self-Service Help Resources. A student user guide and other resources for solving issues related to Canvas can be found at <http://learnitnow.stfrancis.edu>
3. Telephone Support from DAT. You can also phone the Department of Academic Technology for personal help at (815) 740-5080 or (866) 337-1497 (toll-free) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

For any technical support issues that are not related to Canvas, please contact the USF Technology Support Center (TSC). You can reach them via:

- Phone: 1-815-768-TECH (8324)
- Email: [techsupport@stfrancis.edu](mailto:techsupport@stfrancis.edu)
- Web: <http://techsupport.stfrancis.edu>
- Or visit them on the first floor of Marian Hall

**Course Readings:**

The reading list of plays that we cover this semester will be generated in discussion and community with the students in the seminar. The list of plays we read each week will be available in the Canvas course shell.