

500 Wilcox Street

Joliet, IL 60435

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**Course: ENGL 372A/ENGL322T—CRN 10313/10953—Shakespeare/Style:   
Elizabethan**

Semester: Fall, 2018

Time: MW 11:20-12:35

Location: L218

**Prerequisite: ENGL200 or equivalent**

**Materials:** *The Norton Shakespeare*, 3rd Edition, ed. Stephen Greenblatt, et. al. New

York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2015.

**Professor: Dr. Kevin Andrew Spicer**

**Associate Professor  
 Chair, Dept of English and Foreign Languages**

Office: Tower Hall, S-306

Office Hours: MW 8:15-9:00, 10:00-11:15, T 8:00-1:00, F 10:00-1:00

Phone: 815.740.3852

Email: kspicer@stfrancis.edu

*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.*

**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 were developed democratically by the seminar group and have been altered and made more nuanced over the course of the seminar:

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 (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”:
   1. by directly citing the text being read;
   2. by tarrying over key passages that require some degree of interpretation/response;
   3. 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 complete all of the following:**

1. Bring the required texts to class.
2. Read the assigned texts when they are assigned.
3. Participate in class discussion.
4. Group Presentation on a play not read for/in class.
5. Compose a final paper.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

See “Course Requirements” Section *supra*. Only *Nota bene* here is the policy on “late work”: “Late work will lose a point for each day that it is late. After one week, the work is a zero. In-class work will not be accepted late.”

**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, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. See USF Catalog for further clarification and information on grievance procedures.

**American Disability Act:**

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. 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.

**Attendance Policy:**

As per the “Course Requirements” section above, participation in class is a part of your final grade; if you are not in class, you obviously cannot participate. Moreover, giving your participation in class a grade does assume that actively participating—or, on some days, simply just listening to your fellow classmates and your instructor—does improve, increase, and augment your acquisition and grasp of the course material. And, last but not least, this improvement and enrichment will be true in ways that may not be assessed or evaluated in a direct way through other assignments. In other words: come to class because it will help you learn. ☺

**Academic Support Services:**

Various types of academic services offered by the Academic Resource Center (ARC) 815-740-5060 located in Room L214 in the Library. 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.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity Statement:**

All students are expected to strictly follow the guidelines of academic integrity, which are outlined in the University Catalog. All assignments turned-in by an individual will be assumed to be that individual’s own original work. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor if there are exceptions to this assumption.

***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.***

