Shakespeare across the Globe

MLMLA 6393

Fall 2017

FACULTY INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Connie Michalos
Email: cmichal@stthom.edu
Phone: 713.525.3175
Office: 207 Crooker
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ben Jonson writes of Shakespeare, “He was not of an age, but for all time.” And Shakespeare writes of humankind, “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women are but players.” How we define ourselves in love and marriage, through war and peace, beyond power and betrayal are questions Shakespeare poses in his dramas and, perhaps, leaves unresolved. Through an analysis of representative plays and their international performances, this course will explore Shakespeare’s themes and determine their universality and relevance in today’s ever-expanding, ever-shrinking world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course,

- Students will have critically analyzed character and theme in Shakespeare’s plays and related these elements to international performances
- Students will have considered the influence of culture in the interpretation of Shakespeare
- Students will have become acquainted with the background of Shakespeare’s age and the Elizabethan world picture
- Students will have cultivated a knowledge of Shakespeare’s development as a dramatist as he worked within the framework of the Elizabethan theater
- Students will have learned to read and interpret Shakespeare for themselves
- Students will understand the relationship between performance, text and theme
- Students will have gained a basic knowledge of the Shakespeare bibliography
- Students will have come to understand and appreciate Ben Jonson’s statement that Shakespeare was not of an age but for all time

COURSE MATERIALS

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance:
- Students are allowed six (6) absences during the semester. Final grades for students who exceed the limit will be reduced by a full letter grade.
- Please be on time. Two latenesses=one absence. You are late if you come in after I have taken attendance.
- Students may not leave class without prior permission. Otherwise they will be marked absent.
- Students should attend to personal needs before class.
- Students must turn off all electronic devices (phones, pagers, laptops, etc.).

Late work
No late papers will be accepted. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is due must email it to cmichal@stthom.edu by 3:00 P.M. on that date or the grade will be zero.

Missed quizzes and tests
Students must contact me the day of the exam if they are going to be absent so that we can arrange a make-up ASAP. Missed quizzes must be made up immediately upon return to class.

Learning disabilities
Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with me on the first day of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

Academic Integrity
Any suggestion of plagiarism or other form of academic dishonesty will be investigated. Any proof of plagiarism or other form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action by the University. Please consult the University Catalogue and student Handbook for specific policy information.

Please click on the link below and complete the Plagiarism Tutorial in order to clarify any questions.

http://www.stthom.edu/libtraining/ustplagiarism/ustplagiarism.htm
Assessment of Learning

PAPERS: ALL PAPERS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you are absent on the day a paper is due, email it to me by 3:00 P.M. or the grade for the assignment is zero.

All papers are to be typed, double-spaced, use 12-point font and standard print, and follow appropriate MLA format. Please use Microsoft Word.

Papers must be at least ten pages long, unless otherwise indicated, and include at least three sources, none of which is an Internet source.

STUDENTS WHO EARN A GRADE OF C OR LOWER ON THEIR PAPERS MUST MEET WITH ME AND VISIT THE TUTORIAL SERVICES CENTER.

Paper One: Students will choose an international performance of any play we have not discussed in class and analyze the development of themes, character, setting and language, taking into consideration social, cultural and political circumstances and differences. (11/28/17)

Oral presentation: Students will analyze the development of themes, characters, setting and language of an assigned play and its modern film adaptation. They will read and compare the two versions based on the following criteria: cast, setting, fidelity to text, cuts, additions, transpositions, use of technology. (10/17/17)

FINAL EXAM: The exam will cover the plays we have discussed in class and will include quotes and essay questions.

Grading standards

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (TBA)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A- = 90-93  B- = 80-83  C- = 70-73  D = 60-64
A  = 94-96  B  = 84-86  C  = 74-76  D+ = 65-69
B+ = 87-89  C+ = 77-79  F  = below 60: FAIL
“All the world’s a stage. . .”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td><em>The Merchant of Venice</em></td>
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<td>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<td><em>Hamlet</em></td>
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<td><em>Othello</em></td>
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<td>11/28</td>
<td><em>Othello</em> – Miyagi Satoshi (Japan, 2005)<em>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://repository.tku.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/11150/7954/1/jinbun137-07.pdf">http://repository.tku.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/11150/7954/1/jinbun137-07.pdf</a></em></td>
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**PAPER DUE**