

**CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**ENGL 2230 -01**

**Introduction to Shakespeare**

**Semester/Year:** Spring 2014

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours** 0

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time:** 2:00-3:15

**Days:** MW

**Room:** LH 185

**Instructor:** Patrick Amelotte

**Office:** AD 177

**Contact: Office Phone:** 268-2729

**Email:** [pameotte@caspercollege.edu](mailto:pameotte@caspercollege.edu)

**Office Hours:** MW 3:30-5:30; Th 5-6; F 11-12, *and by apt.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students are introduced to the works of Shakespeare through careful reading (and re-reading) of representative major plays and/or sonnets in order to become acquainted with Shakespeare's dramatic and poetical art. Both formal lecture and discussion will cover each reading. From time to time the class will watch tapes of scenes from the plays in order to understand how the plays might be staged and actors interpret roles. In addition to reading between eight and 12 plays and a dozen or so sonnets, students will take mid-term and final objective and essay examinations, report on the interpretation by a major critic (Johnson, Coleridge, Hazlitt, Bradley, Harrison, and so on), and write one short and one extended (possibly research) essay. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010. ENGL 1020 recommended.

**REVISED COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A fresh look at Shakespeare, aimed at increasing students' appreciation and enjoyment of his works. We'll study a variety of different performances, examining and responding to the interpretations of actors, directors, and literary critics in order to arrive at a more complete understanding of Shakespeare's plays – both as literature and performance. Poetry, history, theory, religion, and culture will blend with laughter and good old-fashioned fun as we reverse-engineer, recite, re-enact and respond to some of Shakespeare's most artfully rendered works. Over the course of the semester, students will write short analyses and complete at least one longer project, as well as three exams. Students from all disciplines are welcome; skeptics and Bardophobics are likewise encouraged to enroll.

**PREREQUISITE:** English 1020 or permission of the Instructor

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Stephen Greenblatt     *The Norton Shakespeare*  
Bill Bryson             *Shakespeare: The Illustrated and Updated Edition*

**Recommended Text:**

Claybourne             *The Usborne World of Shakespeare*

**COURSE GOAL:** To promote an academic and personal understanding of Shakespeare and his works, so that students will feel comfortable reading and exploring the subject further.

**OUTCOMES:** The student who completes this course should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate close reading of Shakespeare and other Elizabethan authors.
2. Discuss the themes and/or objectives of each play we read.
3. Place each play in the context of the times and/or movements that produced it with an understanding of the major events and influences of those times.
4. Demonstrate a working knowledge of Shakespeare's biography in the context of the Elizabethan World, the Renaissance, and his place in the Modern World.
5. Demonstrate knowledge and application of at least two theoretical approaches to Shakespeare (e.g. a feminist reading of *Taming of the Shrew* and a psychoanalytic reading of *Hamlet*).
6. Demonstrate a working knowledge of sonnets and sonnet conventions.
7. Write an Elizabethan sonnet.
8. Write a formal, research-based argument on an aspect or two of the plays and poems we cover.
9. Complete a group project based on our readings and discussions.

**METHODOLOGY:**

1. This is largely a lecture/discussion course designed to acquaint the student with Shakespeare's biography and works. The class uses video, audio, and computer support for the material presented. Student questions and discussion are expected and encouraged.
2. The course lectures will draw both from the texts and from supplementary material supplied by the instructor.

3. The course will touch on the following units/subject matter:
  - a. Introductory Material – Shakespeare in his World
  - b. The Sonnets and the Language of the Plays
  - c. Plays of 1590-1598
  - d. Plays of the Globe under Elizabeth, 1599-1603
  - e. Jacobean Plays
  - f. Shakespeare following his death

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

**Grade Distribution**

quizzes	100 pts
homework	100 pts
attendance and participation	100 pts
response paper	100 pts
project	100 pts
three examinations	
#1	100 pts
#2	100 pts
#3	100 pts
formal paper	<u>200 pts</u>
 Total	 1000 pts
 A	 90-100%
B	80-89 %
C	70-79 %
D	60-69 %
F	0-59 %

**CLASS POLICIES**

**Attendance and Participation**

You need to be here. Unlike giant lecture classes which you can skip and get the notes for later (albeit a very foolish strategy), this course is built upon a foundation of lively in-class discussions, dramatic readings, and entertaining tomfoolery. If you miss class, you'll miss out on all the fun.

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences; your final grade will drop by 3% for each subsequent unexcused absence. If you are absent more than 6 times (three weeks of class), you will earn an F in the course. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class, you must provide adequate proof (doctor's note, etc.).

Since a substantial portion of this course will entail discussion of the assigned

readings, you will need to be prepared to contribute something relevant and productive. Your participation grade will be culled from your performance in discussions, homework, and in-class writing assignments.

*Please bring your books to every class; having them with you is part of being prepared for discussions and writing.*

## **Papers and Assignments**

All papers, drafts, and other out-of-class writing assignments must be typed/word processed, double-spaced, with one inch margins and no larger than 12 point font. Papers must meet these requirements (as well as the criteria of the assignment) in order to receive a grade.

## **Response Papers**

Each student in this class will write one response paper this semester. A response paper is simply a 2 page typewritten analysis of a particular reading. Response papers in this class will blend (or juxtapose) the writer's thoughts with the thoughts of at least one established Shakespeare scholar. We will use response papers to "kick start" our discussions this semester.

## **Common Courtesy**

Writing and reading are basically about connecting with others. Let us therefore make our class a sanctuary wherein the needs of others matter as much as our own. Our two rules are as follows:

- 1. BE RESPECTFUL**
- 2. USE YOUR COMMON SENSE**

### **Examples:**

Out of respect for others ...

if you have a cell phone, please turn it off before entering the room.

if you must listen to your iPod (or whatever), please do it somewhere else.

if you want to make a disparaging remark about a classmate, a faculty member, a group of people, etc., please keep the remark to yourself.

if you are late to class, please enter the room as quietly as you can.

if you are sleepy, please exit the room and find a place to lie down (besides, it's better for your back).

**Note:** Laptops are wonderful tools for note-taking and for looking up pertinent information related to class discussions. Lately, however, many students have been using their laptops to pass the time – shopping, networking, emailing, watching YouTube, etc. When asked about this activity, these students invariably reply that they are "multitasking." Whatever you call it, it's still disrespectful, and if you're "multitasking" in our class, you'll be asked to leave your machine at home.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

(Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

## **Expanded Discussion of Plagiarism**

*“The term **plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of papers or other academic materials.”\**

You may **not** legally use another person’s idea or words without acknowledging him or her. Consider this your first and final warning. If you are found to be engaged in this or any other form of academic dishonesty, you will fail the entire course. In addition, a cheating report will be sent to the Vice President of Student Services, who will establish a discipline file for you. This discipline file will be shared with anyone who investigates your background -- including universities and prospective employers.

If you have **any** questions about how to cite your sources, please ask. If you are absent on the days we cover MLA Style, it is your responsibility to get the information. You may consult *The Brief Handbook* MLA Section for general questions about how to cite sources both within the text (as parenthetical references) and at the end of the text (as a Works Cited page).

Keep in mind that plagiarism is not an accident or a “mistake”; it’s a decision to deceive -- and it will catch up with you. Sooner or later, the truth always comes out.

*\*Casper College Student Handbook, Lafayette: School Datebooks, 2004.*

## **Just in Case**

If you find that you can’t continue with the class, please make sure that you drop it. It only takes a few minutes. If you don’t drop yourself, you may have an “F” that haunts you forever.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, [bheuer@caspercollege.edu](mailto:bheuer@caspercollege.edu). The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

## English 2230: Introduction to Shakespeare

- W Jan 21**     **Introduction and Course Policies**
- M Jan 27**     **The Man in the Portraits**  
Bill Bryson, *Shakespeare: The World as Stage*, Chapters 1-3
- W Jan 29**     **London, You're a Lady**  
Bryson, Chapters 3-4
- M Feb 3**     **There Was a Star Danced, and Under It I Was Born**  
Bryson, Chapter 5-6
- W Feb 5**     **The King's Man and The Undiscovered Country**  
Bryson Chapters 7-8  
Recommended: Norton, "The Playing Field," p. 30-42  
Bio Assignment Due
- M Feb 10**    **Time Glides Swiftly By in Secret**  
from *Metamorphoses* Book X  
"Venus and Adonis," lines 1-708
- W Feb 12**    **What Is Thy Body But a Swallowing Grave**  
"Venus and Adonis," lines 709-end
- M Feb 17**    **Too Much in the Sun**  
Hamlet Introduction  
Exam # 1 Due
- W Feb 19**    **TBA**
- S Feb 22     Hamlet
- M Feb 24**    **O Dromio, O Dromio**  
*Comedy of Errors*  
Acts 1-2
- W Feb 26**    **She Is Spherical, Like a Globe**  
*Comedy of Errors*  
Act 3
- M Mar 3**     **Hand in Hand, Not One before Another**  
*Comedy of Errors*  
Acts 4-5

- W Mar 5**      **TBA**
- Mar 10-14**    **SPRING BREAK**
- M Mar 17**    **Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?**  
Sonnets: 2, 3, 18, 29, 30, 33, 55, 73, 107
- W Mar 19**    **Thou Hast Thy Will**  
Sonnets: 116, 126, 128, 129, 130, 135, 138, 144, 154
- M Mar 24**    **If Music Be the Food of Love ...**  
*Twelfth Night*  
Acts 1-2
- W Mar 26**    **Some Are Born Great ...**  
*Twelfth Night*  
Act 3
- M Mar 31**    **Fool, Fool, Fool, I Say**  
*Twelfth Night*  
Act 4
- W Apr 2**      **The Whirligig of Time**  
*Twelfth Night*  
Act 5  
Exam #2 Due
- M Apr 7**      **Nothing Will Come of Nothing**  
*King Lear*  
Act 1
- W Apr 9**      **This Heart Will Break into a Hundred Thousand Flaws**  
*King Lear*  
Act 2
- M Apr 14**    **Is Man No More Than This?**  
*King Lear*  
Act 3
- W Apr 16**    **The Lowest and Most Dejected Thing of Fortune**  
*King Lear*  
Act 4



- M Apr 21**    **The Button Undone**  
*King Lear*  
Act 5
- W Apr 23**    **Be Collected ... There's No Harm Done**  
*The Tempest*  
Act 1
- M Apr 28**    **All Things Common in Nature**  
*The Tempest*  
Acts 2-3
- W Apr 30**    **Now My Charms Are All Oe'rthrown**  
*The Tempest*  
Acts 4-5
- M May 5**     **TBA**
- W May 7**     Presentations
- M May 12**    **Paper Due**
- W May 14**    **Final Exam Due**