

Instructor: Dr. Martha Reid  
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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:45-5 p.m., and by appointment

Course Objectives

- Through the study of selected sonnets and plays (including histories, comedies, tragedies, and romances), to explore Shakespeare's art, emphasizing his vision of humanity and the world
- To pursue this exploration by analyzing dramatic action, character, language, thought, and spectacle
- To study the performance of Shakespeare's plays, mainly by means of video recordings, by examining the work of actors, directors, and designers of scene, costume, make-up, and lighting
- To develop analytical, oral, and writing skills
- To develop the skills of a practiced audience member

Required Texts

Flachmann, Michael, ed. Shakespeare: From Page to Stage. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2007.

Shakespeare, William. King Richard II. Ed. by Michael Clamp. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Winter's Tale. Ed. by Frank Kermode. NY: Penguin, 1998.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and Participation. Students are expected to attend class regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:50 to 2 p.m. Absences will be recorded and may negatively affect a final grade. Students should read a play in its entirety prior to the first meeting on which it is assigned and come to every class meeting prepared to contribute to the learning experience. In addition to formal oral presentations, contributions to class discussion and participation in other class activities will be considered in assigning the final grade.

- Co-instruction Panel. A two- or three-member student panel will join the instructor in leading the class's study of each play's text and performance. The panel's responsibilities will include the following activities. (1) The panel will collaborate in fielding questions from other class members about the play and pose one or more questions for class discussion of the play. (2) Each panelist will lead a ten-minute discussion of either the historical/cultural context of the play, the thought/themes that drive the play, or the possibilities for spectacle/staging in the play. (3) Each panel member will choose a passage of about ten lines, read it aloud with a practiced delivery, explain its meaning, and comment on its importance to the play. (4) Panel members will collaboratively select and screen a 10-15 minute video excerpt(s) from one or more filmed performances of the play, provide information about the performance(s), and pose a question that they and other class members will address in a written response for the video journal described below. (5) Each panelist will present a visual analysis, described below, of a character in the play. Failure to fulfill responsibilities #1-3 may lower the final grade by .33 grade point. An assessment of the panel's execution of #4 will count as 10% of each member's video journal grade. As noted below, the visual analysis presentation (#5), together with a companion paper, will constitute 20% of the final grade.
- Visual Analysis of a Character. Each student will choose a character from the play for which her or his panel is responsible. On the last day that the play is scheduled for class study, the student will present orally to the class a ten-minute visual analysis of the character's nature, behavior, moods, motives, feelings, etc. (with the emphasis on psychological traits), using the color, line, mass, movement, texture, etc., of a non-representational painting to illustrate the analysis. A companion essay summarizing the oral presentation (1-2 word-processed, double-spaced pages) will be submitted to the instructor immediately following the oral presentation. This activity will be worth 20% of the final grade.
- Video Journal. Each student's nine written responses to questions posed by panels about video excerpts from filmed performances will constitute a video journal worth 20 % of the final grade. Each of the nine entries (1-2 word-processed, double-spaced pages per entry) and the panel's rating for its video selection and question will be worth 10% of the journal grade. Entries should be submitted to the instructor either in hardy copy or electronic form no later than one week after each video screening; late submissions will be penalized.
- Examination. A mid-term examination worth 20% of the final grade will be written in-class on March 10. There is no final examination in this course.
- Research Paper. How does Shakespeare portray love in at least two plays? How does he explore the theme of appearance versus reality in at least two plays? Love and the relationship between appearance and reality are only two of the many themes about which Shakespeare's plays inform us and make us think in fresh ways. An essay discussing a major theme of your choice in at least two of the plays studied for the course will be submitted to the instructor in hard copy form on March 31. This essay

will incorporate five relevant and reliable library/internet sources in support of its argument and will include appropriate documentation in the MLA format. The paper will be 5-7 word-processed, double-spaced pages in length, including documentation, and will count as 20% of the final grade.

- **Sonnet Project.** During the final two weeks of the course, students will be scheduled for a particular class meeting at which to demonstrate ownership of a sonnet of their choice from those included in the Flachmann text. On the appointed day, each student will read his or her poem aloud, briefly explain its meaning and point out significant features, and conclude with a memorized recitation of the sonnet. A companion essay (2-3 word-processed, double-spaced pages) summarizing the oral explanation and reflecting (and documenting in MLA format) the use of two or three critical commentaries in its preparation will be submitted to the instructor immediately following the oral interpretation. This activity will be worth 20% of the final grade.

### Assessment

The criteria for grading include clarity of purpose, effective organization, and quality of presentation, communication, and thought. Late work will be penalized. Make-up examinations are given at the discretion of the instructor only for valid, documented medical or other extraordinary reasons. The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative judgments in determining grades for individual assignments and for the course.

#### Grading equivalents:

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72	D-	62
						F	55

### Academic Honesty

Students in this course should refer to the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in the current *Student Handbook*, available online at <http://www.moravian.edu/StudentLife/handbook/academic2.htm>.

Students must retain copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as all electronic, mechanical, photocopied, and recorded notes, drafts, and materials used in preparing assignments. These are to be made available for inspection by the instructor at any time.

Questions about appropriate collaboration, proper documentation, and other honesty issues can be confusing. If in doubt, ask the instructor.

N.B.

This syllabus, including the schedule of assignments that follows, is subject to change.

To be successful, students should expect to work at least six hours per week outside of class preparing for this class.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this course for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

## Schedule of Assignments

Jan.	20	Introduction to the course
	22	Historical, cultural, biographical background
	27	<i>Richard II</i> (1595-6)
	29	“
Feb.	03	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i> (1596-7)
	05	“
	10	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (1595)
	12	“
	17	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (1598-9)
	19	“
	24	<i>Twelfth Night</i> (1600-2)
	26	“
Mar.	10	<b>Mid-term examination</b>
	12	<i>Hamlet</i> (1599-1601)
	17	“
	19	“
	24	<i>Macbeth</i> (1606-7)
	26	“
	31	“ ; research paper due
Apr.	02	<i>King Lear</i> (1605-6)
	07	“
	09	“
	14	The Winter's Tale (1609-11)
	16	“
	21	<i>Selected Sonnets</i> (1593-1603)
	23	“
	28	“
	30	“