

English 330 Shakespeare**Spring 2015**

Instructor: Dr. Martha Reid
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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 analyze character, language, and thought in the texts, as well as dramatic action and spectacle suggested by the texts
- To experience performances of Shakespeare's plays, mainly by means of video recordings, and examine the work of actors, directors, and designers of scene, costume, make-up, and lighting
- To develop analytical, oral, and writing skills

Required Text

McDonald, Russ, and Lena Cowen Orlin. *The Bedford Shakespeare*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and Participation. Students are expected to attend class regularly. 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. One or two students will join the instructor in guiding the class's study of each play, posing or responding to questions and stimulating class discussion. Co-instruction responsibilities, which count for 30% of the final grade, include the following specific assignments.
 - ⇒ The co-instructor(s) will present a brief report on either the original circumstances of the play (sources, historical background, cultural context, etc.); the important ideas and themes in the play across time; or the spectacle and staging of the play in different productions. 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 assignment counts for 10% of the final grade.
- ⇒ The co-instructor(s) will also choose a meaningful passage from the play of about ten lines, read it aloud with a practiced delivery, explain its meaning, point out significant elements, and comment on its importance to the play. This assignment counts for 10% of the final grade.
- ⇒ The co-instructor(s) will present, orally, a visual analysis of the play, using a non-representational painting to *map* or *construct* the play's meaning through color, line, mass, movement, and texture but not by the realistic representation of a figure or scene. 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 is worth 10% of the final grade.
- Performance Reviews. Many video recordings of diverse productions of the nine plays being studied in this course are available in the Reeves film collection, from the instructor, or from other video sources. During the Spring 2015 semester, the Civic Theatre in Allentown is screening performances of five of the nine plays, filmed live at the Globe Theatre in London (see page 5 for dates and times). The Moravian College Theatre Company is presenting a staged reading of *Henry V* on February 27 (see page 5 for related workshop dates). Live performances of one or more of the nine may be scheduled in New York, Philadelphia, or elsewhere during the semester. From the array of complete productions of the nine plays, both live and recorded, available to us, students will select up to five to attend or view and then review in a single significant sentence each. For credit, each one-sentence review—accompanied by information identifying the student reviewer, the play, the production, and the date of attendance or viewing—will be emailed to the instructor. Five reviews will earn an A; four, a B; three, a C; two, a D; one, an F; and none, a zero. The grade accrued is worth 10% of the final grade.
 - Examination. A mid-term examination worth 20% of the final grade will be written in-class on February 26. There is no final examination in this course.
 - Research Paper. An essay addressing, for example, an idea or character(s) in one or more of the plays studied for the course; stage elements in or productions of a play; or historical/cultural contexts of a play will be submitted to the instructor in hard copy form on April 14. This essay will incorporate at least 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 week of the course, students will be scheduled to demonstrate ownership of a sonnet of their choice. (If 154 options seem

overwhelming, you might start your selection process by considering the following dozen and a half that are frequently included in anthologies: 15, 18, 29, 30, 55, 60, 71, 73, 87, 104, 106, 107, 116, 128, 129, 130, 138, 144. Broader range of choice, however, is encouraged. There will be no duplication; each student's choice will be unique. 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. Ten minutes will be allotted to each presentation. 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.

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 readings and written assignments that follows, is subject to change.

- Each assigned play should be read in its entirety prior to the first class meeting devoted to that play, as noted on the following schedule.
- To be successful, students should expect to work at least six hours per week outside of class in preparation.
- In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in the senior capstone seminar, English majors are advised to save both digital and hard copies of work written for English 330, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (610 861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic and Disability Support office.

Shakespeare on Screen in HD at the Civic Theatre “Live” from London’s Globe Theatre

Henry V, January 15, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in the 19th Street Theatre

Twelfth Night, January 29, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in Theatre 514

The Taming of the Shrew, February 12, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in Theatre 514

The Tempest, March 10, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in the 19th Street Theatre

Macbeth, March 31, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in the 19th Street Theatre

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, April 7, 2015 @ 7 p.m. in Theatre 514

For more information, go to www.civictheatre.com/category/globe-on-screen/

Moravian College Theatre Company’s Staged Reading of *Henry V*

Workshop #3

Saturday, January 31, 2015 @ 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with complimentary lunch provided

- Language training to prepare for auditions/participation or attendance/comprehension
- No commitment to either participation or attendance implied
- May attend one, two, three, or all four workshops
- Arena Theatre, HUB lower level

Workshop #4

Saturday, February 14, 2015 @ 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with complimentary lunch provided

- Language training to prepare for auditions/participation or attendance/comprehension
- No commitment to either participation or attendance implied
- May attend one, two, three, or all four workshops
- Arena Theatre, HUB lower level

Staged reading/Workshop production

Friday, February 27, 2015 @ 8 p.m.

- Arena Theatre, HUB lower level

For more information, go to home.moravian.edu/public/eng/theatre/index.htm

Schedule of Assignments

Jan.	20	Introduction to the course; historical, cultural, biographical background
	22	<i>Richard II</i>
	27	“
	29	“
Feb.	03	<i>1 Henry IV</i>
	05	“
	10	<i>2 Henry IV</i>
	12	“
	17	<i>Henry V</i>
	19	“
	24	“
	26	Mid-term examination
Mar.	03	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
	05	“
	17	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
	19	“
	24	“
	26	<i>Macbeth</i>
Apr.	31	“
	02	“
	07	<i>King Lear</i>
	09	“
	14	“ ; research paper due
	16	<i>The Tempest</i>
	21	“
	23	“
	28	<i>Selected Sonnets</i> [student presentations]
	30	“