English 4520.01: Shakespeare
WF Mendenhall 175, (9:35-10:55 a.m.)
Spring 2012

Professor Jennifer Higginbotham
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Office: Denney Hall 533
Off. Hrs: W 2:15-4:15 p.m. & by appointment

Class Description
In late sixteenth-century London, on the south bank of the Thames, amongst bear-baiting rings and brothels stood a round wooden theater that brought together people from all walks of life—aristocrats and merchants, cobbler’s and tailors, seamstresses and fishwives. It was for this space and for these people that William Shakespeare first wrote his influential plays, and in this course, we’ll be imagining what it was like to stand with them and watch Shakespeare’s theater in action. Our in-depth exploration of Shakespeare’s language, works, and world will include comedies and tragedies as well as a few of his poems.

The Texts (available at the OSU bookstores)
- The Norton Shakespeare
- Recommended: The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare, ed. Russ McDonald

I have ordered the Norton Shakespeare, ed. Greenblatt et al., but any reputable scholarly edition of the plays and poems that contains line numbers, glosses, and explanatory notes is fine. Reputable one-volume editions of all of Shakespeare’s plays and poems are published by Norton, Riverside, and Longman; reputable editions of individual plays are published by Arden, Bantam, Bedford, Cambridge, Folger, Oxford, Pelican, and Signet. I realize that the growing popularity of kindles and nooks means that their presence in the classroom is inevitable, but the only reputable edition available is the Oxford Shakespeare, and reviews indicate that it has significant typos and formatting problems.

The Schedule
Readings should be completed in advance of the first day on which we discuss a play. You must bring your books to class. You will want to mark important passages so that you can refer back to them. Questions on the final will draw upon the passages that we discuss in class, so it’s in your interest to keep track of the excerpts that we discuss. I strongly prefer that you not use laptops in class unless you need them to accommodate a disability.

August 21, Wednesday
Introduction to Shakespeare’s Theater
Recommended: Bedford, Chapter 4

August 23, Friday
Shakespeare’s Sonnets, 1-3, 17-18, 20, 41-42, 77, 92-93, 106
Recommended: Bedford, Chapter 2

August 28, Wednesday
Shakespeare’s Sonnets 126-127, 129-130, 135, 154
EXTRA CREDIT: Memorize one of the sonnets and recite it to the class, and you will receive a bonus 10 points on your overall quiz score.

August 30, Friday
Shakespeare’s Sonnets 138 and 144 & Margreta de Grazia’s “The Scandal of Shakespeare’s Sonnets” (Carmen)

September 4, Wednesday
Midsummer Night’s Dream
DUE: FIRST THOUGHT EXERCISE

September 6, Friday
Midsummer Night’s Dream
September 11, Wednesday  

Twelfth Night

September 13, Friday  

Twelfth Night

September 13-15, 20-22  

EXTRA CREDIT: Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare in the Park by Actors Theatre of Columbus, Columbus Commons

September 18, Wednesday  

Twelfth Night

September 20, Friday  

Twelfth Night, Stephen Orgel, “Nobody’s Perfect, or Why Did the English Stage Take Boys for Men” (Carmen)

EXTRA CREDIT: 2 p.m. Denney 311: The English Department’s Annual Kane Lecture by Stephen Orgel, Stanford University

September 25, Wednesday  

Merry Wives of Windsor  

DUE: SECOND THOUGHT EXERCISE

September 27, Friday  

Merry Wives of Windsor

October 2, Wednesday  

Merry Wives of Windsor

October 4, Friday  

Merry Wives of Windsor, Phyllis Rackin, “Our Canon, Ourselves” (Carmen)

October 9, Wednesday  

In-class Writing Workshop

October 10-25  

EXTRA CREDIT: Performances of The Tempest, directed by the Royal Shakespeare Company’s Cressida Brown, Roy Bowen Theater, Drake Performance and Event Center, 1849 Cannon Drive

(on specific dates: check web site for details)

October 11, Friday  

Othello & Handout on Carmen  
Recommended: Bedford Chapter 3, pp. 85-90  

DUE: FIRST ESSAY

October 16, Wednesday  

Othello and Imtiaz Habib, “The Missing (Black) Subject” (Carmen)  
NOTE: the Othello quiz will be today rather than on the same day your essay is due

October 18, Friday  

Othello  

DUE: THIRD THOUGHT EXERCISE

October 23, Wednesday  

Othello
October 25, Friday  
*Othello*

October 30, Wednesday  
*Antony and Cleopatra*

November 1, Friday  
*Antony and Cleopatra*

November 6, Wednesday  
*Antony and Cleopatra*

November 8, Friday  
*Antony and Cleopatra*, Janet Adelman, “Making Defect Perfection: Shakespeare and the One-sex Model” (Carmen)  
**DUE: FOURTH THOUGHT EXERCISE**

November 13, Wednesday  
*Class’s Choice*

November 15, Friday  
*Class’s Choice*

November 20, Wednesday  
*Class’s Choice*

November 22, Friday  
*Class’s Choice* and Review for Final Exam  
**DUE: SECOND PAPER**

November 22-December 5  
**EXTRA CREDIT:** Cincinnati Shakespeare Performance of *Twelfth Night*  
(on specific dates, check website for details)

December 6, Friday  
FINAL EXAM from 8-9:45 a.m. (I’m sorry; we did not get lucky with the registrar’s assignment of exam times)

**Requirements and Policies**

*Note that the minimum requirement for passing this class is turning in all the work.*

**The Assignments**

- 7 scheduled quizzes and occasional pop quizzes
- Two 5-7 page papers
- Four Thought Exercises
- Final Exam
- Optional Term Paper: Students may choose to write a 10-14 page term paper rather than writing two 5-7 page papers

**Grading:** Quizzes (10%), Four thought exercises (15%); Argumentative Essays (55%); Final Exam (20%)

**Quizzes:** Scheduled quizzes are there to reward you for reading carefully and will generally be multiple choice and plot-oriented. Pay attention to dramatic moments, such as how characters die and who kills them, when they change costumes, when props play an important role in the dialogue, etc. Sample questions: Who has Viola’s women’s clothing at the end of *Twelfth Night*? With whom are the Venetians at war at the beginning of *Othello*? There will be one scheduled quiz on the sonnets and one scheduled quiz per play (seven total). These quizzes will be given out at the beginning of class, and they cannot be made up for any
reason. If you anticipate missing a quiz, you should plan to complete one of the extra credit assignments explained below. Students should also expect the possibility of pop quizzes on other days.

Class Participation and Preparation: I expect everyone to come to class prepared with the assigned texts and notes, ready to dazzle us with your wit and insight, or, at the very least, to listen actively. I understand that some people are shy and quiet; good listening and the occasional, helpful comment can be a better form of participation than constant chatter. To prepare for class, you should read the plays, underline important passages and write notes in the margins, and then come to class with your texts in hand, ready with questions and comments. While in class, you should take note of any passages that we discuss or read out loud, as they are the ones from which I will draw for the final. Pay particular attention to those that I note on the board or in power point presentations. Keep track of these in your book or your notes so that you will remember them when it comes time to study for the final.

Attendance: You may miss 4 classes without a penalty and with no questions asked, although if you know you will be absent I do appreciate receiving a note via e-mail. After that, students with 1, 2, or 3 unexcused absences over and above the four automatically excused absences will be graded 1/3, 2/3, and a whole letter grade lower for the course (a B+ becomes a B, B-, then a C+); students with more than 4 unexcused absences will receive an “E” for the course. Absences after the first four will only be excused if you can document a medical emergency or family crisis after the fact (scheduled medical appointments will not be excused). That does not mean, however, that if you are ill and miss four classes that you can simply take four free “skip days.” Once you pass the 4 class threshold, penalties will accrue for any missed classes for which you cannot provide documentation. Quizzes cannot be made up even for excused absences.

Lateness: Class starts at 9:35 a.m. sharp. Please be in your seat and ready for attendance. It is very distracting for other students to have people wandering in 5-10 minutes late. At my discretion, chronic lateness may result in your grade being lowered.

Thought Exercises: These will be distributed during the class before they are due, and they will be geared toward helping you develop the skills necessary for doing well on the papers and the final exam. They will be graded on a check plus, check, and check minus basis (10 points for a check plus, 8 for a check, and 6 for a check minus). These are in lieu of a midterm in order to give you a lower stakes opportunity to apply the knowledge you’re acquiring in class; I will grade these based on effort. So long as it’s clear you’ve done a thoughtful and thorough job, I’m going to give you a check plus.

Final: The exam will be a mix of multiple choice questions, short answers, identifications of passages that we have discussed in class (I will give you a quotation, and you will have to identify the play and the speaker), and brief essays discussing a few of the passages. In addition to knowing the plots, you have to read the plays carefully, learn the names of the characters, and be able to analyze Shakespeare’s language in detail in order to do well.

Formal Essays: Detailed instructions for the 5-7 page essays will be posted on Carmen two weeks before the due date and discussed in class. All assignments should be typed (double-spaced) with one-inch margins and an “unjustified” right-hand margin. Have your last name on each page, and format your citations following the MLA handbook. Papers must be submitted in hard copy. I’m available for consultation at all steps along the way, and resources for writing English papers are available on Carmen under Writing Resources. You may revise your first essay in consultation with me. Optional revisions are due within one week of graded papers being returned.

Late assignments will drop 1/6 of a grade for each day they are late inclusive of weekends (An A- becomes an A-/B+, etc.). You may submit an e-mail copy for a late paper to avoid incurring further late penalties, but you must then follow up with a hard copy at the earliest opportunity. The penalties apply unless you have a
legitimate, documented excuse, or have obtained an extension before the due date. Extensions will only be granted in extenuating of circumstances.

**Term-paper Option:** Instead of writing two 5-7 page papers, students may opt to write a 10-14 page term paper. You will need to meet with me early in the quarter to discuss your idea, and together we will work out a research plan. The deadline to choose this option is September 25, when an annotated bibliography of five sources is due, though you should consult with me within the first two weeks if you are considering this option. A preliminary thesis is due to me by October 2, and students writing term papers must provide a first draft of the paper by October 23 and should then expect to perform significant revision between then and the final due date of November 22. The goal of this option is to give you the opportunity to do the kind of academic work that can be used as a writing sample if you ever decide to apply to graduate school.

Participation in undergraduate research also looks impressive on resumes and other applications, and in the past, students who choose this option have been nominated for the essay awards given by the English Department and the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Students should also consider displaying their research at places such as next year’s Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (http://denman.osu.edu/describe.aspx). I also encourage people choosing this option to consider competing for the Library Research Prize (http://library.osu.edu/news/grants-awards/undergraduate-research-prize/), which requires you to meet with the English subject library Anne Fields (fields.179@osu.edu), keep a journal of your research, and then submit your paper in May 2014.

**Extra-credit:** In addition to the ten extra credit points you can receive for reciting a Shakespeare sonnet on August 28, you can earn 10 extra-credit quiz points if you attend the following events and write up a 1-2 page review of the performance or lecture. You’re welcome to do all the extra-credit assignments you like, but they will only be applied to quiz scores; you can, however, get an A+ for your quiz score if your final total is higher than 100%, which will have a positive effect on your overall grade:
   - September 13-15 & 20-22: Shakespeare in the Park Performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by the Actors’ Theatre (http://www.theactorstheatre.org/index.asp), Columbus Commons, 160 S. High Street, directions are available here (http://www.columbuscommons.org/visit/directions-&-hours/). This event is free.
   - September 20: Lecture by Stephen Orgel, Stanford University, “Getting it Wrong,” Denney Hall 311
   - October 10-25: Young People’s Shakespeare performance of *The Tempest*, directed by Cressida Brown of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Roy Bowen Theatre, Drake Performance and Event Center (https://artsandsciences.osu.edu/events/the-tempest), discounted student tickets will be available
   - November 22-December 5: Cincinnati Shakespeare Company production of *Twelfth Night*, performances on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. (http://www.cincyshekes.com/twelfth-night-2013.html), student tickets are $22 or $26.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a breech of academic integrity, and I take it very seriously. As a student, it is your responsibility to understand OSU’s policies on student conduct. If you have any question about citing sources or what constitutes plagiarism, don’t hesitate to consult me. OSU defines plagiarism as “the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas.” As per the university’s guidelines, all cases of suspected plagiarism will be turned over to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

**Getting Outside Help:** The OSU Writing Center is available to provide free, professional writing tutoring and consultation. You may set up an appointment by visiting http://cstw.osu.edu/writingcenter.

The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall and offers services for students with documented disabilities. You can contact ODS at 292-3307. Students who feel they may need accommodation should contact me privately to discuss their needs.