**RATIONALE:** This course is designed to introduce the student to major works of Shakespeare, to understand their relation to the genres of tragedy and comedy, to understand their meaning in relation to their historical context as well as their existential import that still has bearing upon our own lives. Fundamentally it is a question of learning how to read Shakespeare’s poetic production with some fluency and understanding.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** One mid-term take-home essay exam, to be typed, double spaced: choice of 3 out of 4 or 5 questions. One final paper, 4-6 pages, typed, double-spaced on plays assigned after mid-term. Quizzes (7) will be given first day of discussion of each play (basic identification); first assignment for sonnets will count as a quiz. Paper, exam, and the 7 quizzes each count for 30% of the final grade. The final 10% will be accounted for by class participation and teacher discretion. Assume that one typed page = 250 words.

**ATTENDANCE:** More than four classes missed will result in the lowering of final grade by one grade. Each absence thereafter will count for a lowering by a third of a grade. Eight or more absences will count as a failing grade. Please see the instructor about medical issues or upcoming commitments that may conflict with class. Coming into class significantly late or leaving early will count as half an absence. Please talk to me if there is a necessity to leave class early.

**PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas without attribution. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

**DISABILITY:** The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 292-3307. A student with a disability should also let the instructor know what will help facilitate his or her learning situation in the classroom.

**GEC GOALS AND OUTCOMES:** Students in this class will develop the capacity for discriminating judgment based on an aesthetic and historical appreciation of Shakespeare through reading, discussion and informed critical written interpretation of the texts. Through this process the student will also learn to appraise and evaluate the social and personal values of Shakespeare’s cultural moment and their own.

**TEXT:** The Complete Pelican Shakespeare ed. Orgel & Braunmuller
CALENDAR

WEEK ONE

Jan 9  W  Introduction: Theatre and Shakespeare’s World
Jan 11 F  Shakespeare’s Language. For class read Sonnets 18, 23, 29, 44, 60, 73, 116, 129, 135.

WEEK TWO

Jan 16 W  The Merchant of Venice (1596-1597)
Jan 18 F  The Merchant of Venice

WEEK THREE

Jan 23 W  The Merchant of Venice
Jan 25 F  The Merchant of Venice

WEEK FOUR

Jan 30 W  Much Ado About Nothing (1598-1599)
Feb 1  F  Much Ado About Nothing

WEEK FIVE

Feb 6  W  Much Ado About Nothing
Feb 8  F  Hamlet (1600-1601)

WEEK SIX

Feb 13 W  Hamlet
Feb 15 F  Hamlet

WEEK SEVEN

Feb 20 W  Hamlet
Feb 22 F  Hamlet  Pick Up Take Home Exam

WEEK EIGHT

Feb 27 W  Measure for Measure (1604-1605)  Take Home Exam Due
Mar 1  F  Measure for Measure
WEEK NINE

Mar 6  W   Measure for Measure
Mar 8  F   Measure for Measure

WEEK TEN

Mar 13 W   Spring Break
Mar 15 F   Spring Break

WEEK ELEVEN

Mar 20 W   Othello (1604-1605)
Mar 22 F   Othello

WEEK TWELVE

Mar 27 W   Othello
Mar 29 F   Othello

WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 3  W   King Lear (1605-1606)- Conflated Text (p. 1573)
Apr 5  F   King Lear

WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 10 W   King Lear
Apr 12 F   King Lear

WEEK FIFTEEN

Apr 17 W   The Winter’s Tale (1610-1611)
Apr 19 F   The Winter’s Tale

WEEK SIXTEEN (EXAM WEEK)

Wednesday, April 24, 4:00 pm. Final Paper Due
In English Office (Denney 421) or under my office door (Denney 505)

This syllabus is subject to change at any moment