

**English 725:
Shakespeare: Tragedies**

Week 1
Organization

Romeo and Juliet. Acts 1-2

Week 2
Romeo and Juliet. Acts 3-5

Romeo and Juliet

Week 3:
Julius Caesar, Acts 1-2

Julius Caesar, Acts 3-5

Week 4:
Julius Caesar

Review

Week 5:
EXAM: Take Home

Hamlet, Acts 1-2

Week 6:
Hamlet, 3-5

Hamlet

Week 7:
Hamlet

Othello, Acts. 1-2

Week 8:
Othello, Acts 3-5

Othello

Week 9:
Review of *Hamlet* and *Othello*

Week 10:
King Lear, Acts 1-2

King Lear, Acts 3-5

Week 11:
King Lear

Macbeth, Acts 1-2

Week 12:
Macbeth, Acts 3-5

Macbeth

Week 13:
The Winter's Tale, Acts 1-2

The Winter's Tale, Acts 3-5

Week 14
The Winter's Tale

Paper Due: (Submitted online by 5:00 P.M.)

Week 15
Review

Review

Final Exam: Take Home Exam

Assignments:

- One in class report; 20-30 minutes (see topics below)
- Complete reading assignment before each class.
- One take home midterm exam; one take home final exam.
- One 4000-6000 word paper: due April 28. Topics listed below. To be submitted online by 5:00 P.M. Early drafts of the paper may be submitted for me to return and read no later than one week before the due date.
- Final exam: Take Home Exam

Learning objectives: Through classroom discussion and original written criticism, students will be able to explain the historical importance of Shakespeare's tragedies as works of art and as historical documents. Students will learn how to analyze, evaluate, and employ interpretative approaches in speaking and writing about Shakespeare and will develop a professional competency in critical thinking and writing about literature.

Grading Policies:

- Midterm Exam: 25% essay exam on themes, characters, imagery, verse, et al., of the play.
- Paper: 35%
- Final: 30%
- Oral Report: 10% (these will be graded Pass/Fail; “Pass” will be counted as an “A”; if the grade is “Fail,” you will have an opportunity to submit a written version of the report.)
- Extra Credit (final grade raised one step; for example, from B+ to A-): Memorize 75 lines of verse from the assigned readings--Note: Graduate Student grading will have a different scale.
- No late submission of essay.

Attendance and Classroom Policies:

- Attendance is expected. However, two unexcused absences are permitted. Each unexcused absence after two will result in the final grade being reduced by one full grade. Routine doctor’s appointments, job conflicts, leaving early for vacation, etc., do not count as an excused absence. To receive an excused absence for emergency medical treatment or family emergency please give me appropriate documentation.
- No electronics may be used during class, please, except to consult the texts under discussion.

Report Topics

Select one of the topics below. Speak for about 20-30 minutes to the class about the topic. Turn in to me a bibliography of the sources you used for the topic. Some of the topics are appropriate for web illustration.

- Tragic Heroes/Heroines in Art (show illustrations; information about painters, sculptors, etc.; scenes portrayed; approach to character[s] portrayal, scenes from movie productions); several reports possible, on different characters.
- Portraits of Shakespeare (information about artist; how genuine?; when discovered?; revelation of Shakespeare’s character?)
- Theatres: various topics here: 1)medieval background; 2)development of theatrical space in sixteenth-century; 3)outdoor and indoor theatres;
- Greek and Roman background to tragedy: various topics: 1) Greek tragedians and similarities to or differences from Shakespeare’s tragedies 2) Roman dramatist Seneca and his influence on Shakespeare/Elizabethan theatre
- Contemporary sixteenth-century dramatists : 1) Thomas Kyd 2) Christopher Marlowe, 3) Ben Jonson, 4) John Webster (discuss what they wrote, their connection to Shakespeare)
- Biographies of Shakespeare (Michael Wood, others—see Bevington bibliography.)
- Reports on critical works: several topics:
 - A.C. Bradley, *Shakespearean Tragedy*: Four separate reports on : 1) *Hamlet*, 2) *Othello*, 3)*King Lear*, 4) *Macbeth*

- Mark van Doren, *Shakespeare*: Report on chapters on any two of the plays we are reading
- Marjorie Garber, *Shakespeare After All* (UNLV Libraries e-book); Report on chapter on any one of the plays we are reading.
- Willard Farnham, *The Medieval Heritage of Elizabethan Tragedy* (read at least 75 pages or so to understand thesis of the book)
- Morton Bloomfield, *Seven Deadly Sins* (read 75 pages or so to understand thesis of the book)
- C.S. Lewis, *The Discarded Image*—several reports—each student read one chapter for report (book on intellectual background to sixteenth-century literature)
- R. Chris Hassel, *Shakespeare's Religious Language* (UNLV Libraries e-book); several reports; choose a number of words that have relevance to our plays and discuss their meaning and how they are used in the play.
- Raffield and Watt, eds., *Shakespeare and the Law* (UNLV Libraries e-book); discuss terms and words and ideas relevant to our plays.
- Beatrice Groves, *Texts and Traditions: Religion in Shakespeare, 1592-1604* (UNLV Libraries e-book); read in the book to learn the book's themes and to see its application to any plays we are reading.
- Martindale and Taylor, eds., *Shakespeare and the Classics* (UNLV Libraries e-book); discuss material relevant to our play(s).
- Freeman, Arthur. *John Payne Collier: Scholarship and Forgery in the Nineteenth Century*(UNLV Libraries e-book)
- Sokol, B.J. *Shakespeare's Legal Language: A Dictionary* (UNLV Libraries e-book); several reports; choose a number of words that have relevance to our plays and discuss their meaning and how they are used in the play.

--Sources for Plays: (Other sources can be consulted as well, if more than one person would like to present on any one particular play. Reprints of the plays' sources may be found in Geoffrey Bullough, *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare*, in the UNLV Library.

1) Play: *Romeo and Juliet*; Source: *The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet*, by Arthur Brooke

2) Play: *Julius Caesar*: Source: *Life of Caesar* by Plutarch (classical biographer; any translation ok, but the translation Shakespeare used is by Thomas North, if you care to read that.)

3) Play: *Antony and Cleopatra*; Source: *Life of Antony* by Plutarch [see note on translations above]

4) Play: *Hamlet*; Source: Saxo Grammaticus *Historia Danica* (story of Amlethus) OR Quarto 1 of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (discuss differences from version of *Hamlet* in our text)

PAPER TOPICS:

--Discuss the portrayal of one of the following **types** of characters in the plays: kings, queens, Romans, lovers, counselors, soldiers, conspirators, villains, old men/women,

young men/women [**not** title characters]. Discuss the portrayal of this character type in at least **two different plays**. [You are free to choose another character type to discuss but please run your choice by me before starting to write]

Discuss one of the following in at least **two different plays**:

- Types and importance of plays' settings
- Effectiveness of verse as medium of language
- Changes from sources to play
- Important imagery—e.g., day and night, nature, animals, disease
- One human faculty—e.g., reason, will, passions, physical senses (one alone or all five together), Imagination/fantasy, virtue(s) or vice(s).

Academic Misconduct – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you

to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not

approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit:

<http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Incomplete Grades - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching –The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895- 3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908.

The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about

deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations – The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>