

AN INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE

I. Course Description

This year-long course will introduce the student to William Shakespeare through the in-depth study of three of his plays: Henry V (a history), Hamlet (a tragedy) and The Taming of the Shrew (a comedy). William Shakespeare is arguably the greatest author of all time and studying his works is enjoyable. References and allusions to his writing permeate the works of most authors that follow him. Familiarity with Shakespeare's plays gives the student an edge in understanding and evaluating many types of literature.

II. Course Goals and Objectives

- A. Student will come to understand how learning narrative literature can enhance our understanding of real life.
- B. Student will come to understand how literature can help us to discern patterns of character.
- C. Student will come to understand how literature can provide us with sensitivity to the rhythms of real life and that the sensitivity to these rhythms of life is closely connected with what the Bible calls wisdom.
- D. Student will understand the specialized vocabulary used in the assigned works.

III. Course Outline

- A. Henry V
 - 1. Reading of play
 - 2. Weekly assignment: log entries, writing assignments
 - 3. Memorization and performance of selected passage
 - 4. Test: Histories
 - 5. Watching video of play
- B. Hamlet
 - 1. Reading of play
 - 2. Weekly assignment: log entries, writing assignments
 - 3. Memorization and performance of selected passage
 - 4. Test: Tragedies
 - 5. Watching video of play
- C. The Taming of the Shrew
 - 1. Reading of play
 - 2. Weekly assignments
 - 3. Memorization and performance of selected passage
 - 4. Test: Comedies
 - 5. Watching video of play
- D. Final Exam
- E. Shakspeareance performance

IV. Instructional Materials

- A. Henry V; Oxford School Shakespeare; 1995
- B. Hamlet; Oxford School Shakespeare;
- C. The Taming of the Shrew; Oxford School Shakespeare; 1990
- D. Brightest Heaven of Invention; Leithart, Peter J.; Canon Press 1996
- E. Henry V - video production; Oxford School Shakespeare
- F. Hamlet - video production; Oxford School Shakespeare

V. Teaching Methods

- A. Lecture
- B. Group discussion
- C. Videotape presentations

VI. Evaluation

A. Components

- 1. Section tests
- 2. Final exam
- 3. Performance
- 4. Class Participation
- 5. Reading of plays
- 6. Written assignments

B. Grading Scale

- 1. 100 - 90 = A
- 2. 89 - 80 = B
- 3. 79 - 70 = C
- 4. 69 - 60 = D
- 5. lower = fail

Shakespeare Grade

Reading of plays:

Henry V	100 / 100
Hamlet	100 / 100
Taming of the Shrew	100 / 100

Written / Performance Assignments

Henry V performance	50 / 50
Test Histories	50 / 50
Hamlet performance	50 / 50
Test Trajedies	50 / 50
Tot Shrew performance	50 / 50
Final exam	50 / 50

Class Participation

Henry V	275 / 275
Hamlet	275 / 275
Taming of the Shrew	75 / 75

Total Possible Points: 1225
Total Points Achieved: 1225
Final Grade: A