

Summer 2017

AP/EN 3535 6.0A (SU)

Shakespeare

Course Director:

Doug Freake
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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm

Description:

This course introduces students to twelve of Shakespeare's greatest plays (out of the approximately 37 he wrote or collaborated on). The focus is on the famous tragedies, but we also look at comedies, a history play, one of the so-called "problem plays," and one of the romances. The goals of the course include (1) learning to analyze and understand the plays in terms of their generic conventions, their organizing principles, and their handling of what might be called "philosophical" themes, such as the relationship between love and death; (2) learning about the Elizabethan/Jacobean theatre in terms of its material conditions and its relation to the society of its time; (3) thinking about "Shakespeare" as a cultural force that has had many ramifications in regard to the British Empire and the rise of English as a world language; and (4) examining various productions (available on film or video) of Shakespeare's plays in order to consider the changing cultural and artistic resonances of his works.

Category:

C

Area:

4.1 or 6

Period:

1

Historical Requirement:

Period 1 (pre-1700)

Requirements:

Participation (attendance and contribution to discussion): 10%
A seminar presentation on a scene from one of the plays: 15%
Six short essays (4-7 pages each) on individual plays: 75%

Reading List:

The following plays (I suggest the Signet Editions – available in the York Book Store - which are cheap and easy to carry around and include good critical essays; but if you already have an edition of the plays, that's okay): (1) *The Taming of the Shrew*; (2) *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; (3) *Twelfth Night*; (4) *Romeo and Juliet*; (5) *Henry IV, Part I*; (6) *The Merchant of Venice*; (7) *Hamlet*; (8) *Macbeth*; (9) *Othello*; (10) *King Lear*; (11) *Antony and Cleopatra*; (12) *The Tempest*.

Open To:

Yr 3,4