

# ENGL 2193 N2: Shakespeare 2

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## Syllabus for Shakespeare 2 (Tragedies & Romances)

### Course Description

This course aims to introduce you to the study of Shakespeare's plays at the university level. You will explore 5 plays in detail and you will also learn about the political, social, and economic context in which the plays were written and first performed. You do not need to have read any Shakespeare before to enjoy the course, but you should be prepared to invest some time and energy in order to get the most out of this experience.

As a matter of convenience, I have designed this course to focus on Shakespeare's tragedies and romances. "Shakespeare 1" (Engl 2183) focuses on the histories and comedies. "Shakespeare 1" (Engl 2183) and "Shakespeare 2" (Engl 2193) are not sequential. This means that you are welcome to take both courses and that you may take them in whichever order you prefer.

#### Prerequisite

You must have completed "Writing and Reading Critically" (Engl 1406 or 1413 & 1423) or an equivalent introductory English course with a C- or higher in order to take this course.

### Instructor

I have been teaching Shakespeare in the Department of English at Acadia since 1999. My primary area of expertise is Shakespearean drama, and I have published and lectured on various aspects of early modern literature and culture. My work has appeared in *English Studies in Canada*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Studies in English Literature*, and *Studies in Philology*. I recently co-edited a volume of essays about Shakespeare and the idea of "character" for Palgrave Macmillan, and I am currently preparing an edition of *Othello* for ISE/Broadview Press. I have also worked on the reception of Shakespeare in the nineteenth century, on the connections between seventeenth-century religious literature and republicanism, and on modern film adaptations of early modern plays.



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### Course Overview

Your success in this course will depend largely on your ability to read and to think critically about both the plays on the reading list and the lecture notes I have provided you. I strongly recommend that you work gradually through the course material and that you complete the assignments as you encounter them. It is not a good idea to try to cram everything into a single desperate week. You will need time to absorb and to analyse some complex ideas, and you will want to give yourself plenty of time to revise and to edit your written assignments.

You will notice as you read my lectures that I have **bolded** important terms in order to draw them to your attention. You are responsible for understanding what these terms mean and how they are relevant to the study of Shakespeare. I recommend that you refer to Abrams' *Glossary of Literary Terms* and the online [Oxford English Dictionary](#) in order to flesh out the definitions I offer in my notes.

## Course Materials

Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, 10th Edition. Harcourt Brace, 2011. ISBN: 0495898023. (Recommended but not required)

Shakespeare, William. *Othello*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New Folger Library Shakespeare. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. ISBN 978-0-7434-7755-0.

---. *Romeo and Juliet*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New Folger Library Shakespeare. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. ISBN 978-0-7434-7711-6.

---. *Titus Andronicus*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New Folger Library Shakespeare. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2005. ISBN 0-671-722292-1.

---. *The Winter's Tale*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New Folger Library Shakespeare. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. ISBN 978-0-7434-8489-3.

---. *The Tempest*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New Folger Library Shakespeare. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. ISBN 978-0-7434-8283-7.

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.

## A note on your texts

The editions of Shakespeare's plays that I have chosen for this course are those published by Simon and Schuster for the Folger Shakespeare Library. They are inexpensive but carefully edited texts with useful introductions, solid explanatory notes, and helpful suggestions for further reading. I strongly advise you to purchase these particular editions of the plays, but if you already own either a scholarly edition of Shakespeare's complete works or paperback copies of the individual plays in another series you may use these. Please remember, however, that I have worked with the Folger series as I developed the course which means that my lectures and assignments will assume familiarity with the material they cover. Also, of course, when I refer to a passage from a play by act, scene, and line number, I will be using the Folger lineation.

I have also recommended that you buy a copy of M.H. Abrams' *Glossary of Literary Terms*, a very handy guide to concepts and terms fundamental to the study of literature and a must-have book for every serious English student. **Excerpts from some scholarly resources are available through such free services as Google Books or elsewhere online. You may wish to check whether the material you will need from this text is available that way.**

## Evaluation

**Students must pass the final exam in order to earn credit for this course.**

Reading Quizzes x 5	10%
Quick Work Assignments x 5	15%
Formal Essay	25%
Final Examination	50%

## Assignments

This course is divided into six sections: an introduction followed by 5 text-based modules, one for each of the plays you will read. At the beginning of each module you will find a link to a multiple choice reading quiz. It is your responsibility to have read a play in full before you take the corresponding quiz. I recommend that you complete the quizzes with your books and notes closed as a means of helping you track how much you are understanding as you read.

Each module also contains a set of lecture notes, some optional writing exercises, and a single required "Quick Work" task. You will complete 5 short "Quick Work" assignments before you submit your formal essay. I have provided detailed instructions for all assignments, but I welcome any questions you may have via email.

You will submit your assignments via assignment drop-boxes. Please remember to put your name, student number, course number, and assignment number on each assignment, and to keep a copy in the event the original is lost.

The last assignment should be received at least 4 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate processing time for the request, and for setting the exam.

Note files must be readable by Excel 2007 or Word 2007.

## Exam

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How to apply: Complete the [Application for Examination](#)

### Proctored at Acadia

- The final exam in an online course must be passed to successfully pass the course unless otherwise stated in the assessment section of the course syllabus. There are no rewrites or supplemental examinations at Acadia University.
- Examination requests must be received one month prior to the date you wish to write your examination.
- Course requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of your instructor.
- ***Graduating Students Note:*** If you are graduating in Spring Convocation you must write by April 15th. If you are graduating in Fall Convocation you must write by September 15th.

### Proctored at Another Location

If it isn't practical to take your exam at Acadia, off-campus exams can be written at another university or college. Arrangements for an examination may be made through the Registrar's Office or the Continuing Education office of most universities and colleges. If it is not possible to write your exam at an approved institution, please contact us for assistance.

- ***All fees associated with examinations written at other locations are your responsibility.***
- Some courses may require specific software or internet accessibility at the off-campus examination location.

## Student Handbook

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You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the [handbook](#), contact:

Open Acadia  
21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)  
Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6  
Phone: 1-800-565-6568  
Fax: 902-585-1068  
Email: [openacadia@acadiau.ca](mailto:openacadia@acadiau.ca)

## Academic Integrity

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Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved.

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.
- A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.
- Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

## Course Schedule

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You have 6 months to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but if you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know so that we can arrange a schedule.

Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date. Although I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule within reason, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams.

Before you apply to take your final exam, you should have submitted:

- ☐ Reading Quiz #1 (2%)
- ☐ Reading Quiz #2 (2%)
- ☐ Reading Quiz #3 (2%)
- ☐ Reading Quiz #4 (2%)
- ☐ Reading Quiz #5 (2%)
  
- ☐ Quick Work #1 (3%)
- ☐ Quick Work #2 (3%)
- ☐ Quick Work #3 (3%)
- ☐ Quick Work #4 (3%)
- ☐ Quick Work #5 (3%)
  
- ☐ Formal Essay (25%)