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## **ENG 216**

### **Introduction to Shakespeare**

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:**

*The Norton Shakespeare*. Stephen Greenblatt et. al, editors. New York, Norton, 1997. ISBN: 0-393-97087-6

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

ENG 216 is an introduction to Shakespeare. We will read a sample of plays, and you will learn how to access scholarly information in order to produce three short research projects.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- ❖ To develop your understanding of how to use primary and secondary research to gain knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare and his theatre.
- ❖ To cultivate your research skills, including proper documentation and citation of sources.
- ❖ To enhance your critical reading skills. The plays from the text will introduce you to the variety of genres in which Shakespeare and his contemporaries worked.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS (WRITING ASSIGNMENTS):**

- ❖ Three Research Projects on three different plays (see Readings) 60%
- ❖ Discussion Board Responses 20%
- ❖ Final Portfolio (revised research projects with introduction) 20%

#### **COURSE POLICIES:**

Online Discussion: Students will review course materials and respond to Canvas questions for each act of each play and will do the assigned writing assignments according to the syllabus schedule. Every DB post on the plays must contain at least one direct quotation, properly cited in MLA format by Act.scene.line(s), within it.

Regular and active participation is essential to your success in this course; No DB posting that is more than one week late will receive credit.

Please note that all Discussion Board postings can be completed any time during the weeks that they are due to accommodate all students. All students have the entire week to complete these assignments.

Each student will be expected to read all assignments and to turn in all assigned written work; respond to either Dr. Kennedy's initial discussion topics OR one other student's question in the for each Discussion Board site (these responses should be at LEAST 150 words each and

each one must contain at least one direct quotation from the play); read all postings to Canvas for the semester.

Paper Format: Formal essays must be submitted as Word documents on the Assignments on Canvas. Please put a four-line header with your name, the course number, the date, and the professor's name in the upper left-hand corner of page one of each formal essay. Be sure to double space, title, and number the pages of each essay. Your papers are not considered "turned in" until you submit them in the proper format. You are responsible for keeping a copy of every essay you submit. Submission documents (not the papers themselves, which you will title according to the topic) must be titled in this format when you turn them in:

LastnameCourseAssignment

Example: SmithENG216ProjectOne

If you encounter problems, including "error" messages, when uploading your documents, please try a different browser and/or a different computer before you contact me.

Late Work: Any late formal written assignments will be penalized a letter grade for every day that they are late, and no papers turned in more than a week beyond the original due date will receive passing grades. Discussion Board Postings will lose one point for every day that they are late.

Revision: Revisions need to demonstrate a substantial rethinking and reworking of the original work—including additional attention to the text(s) being addressed—in order to achieve a higher grade on the final portfolio. The extent and success of the revision will help determine the portfolio's final grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism, submitting someone else's ideas or words as though they were one's own, is an honors violation at Mary Baldwin University (See the *Student Handbook*). To avoid even accidental plagiarism in this course, please adhere to the handbook guidelines and/or consult the instructor with your questions if you are ever in doubt.

You will also find substantial help with proper quotation and MLA citation form ( as well as punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph development, etc.) online at the OWL (online writing lab) at Purdue: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (select Non-Purdue Instructors & Students and select General Academic Writing or MLA Formatting & Style Guide).

ET Requests: An ET for this course will be allowed if the student has completed, *on time*, at least half of the written work for the semester (at least two of the three required essays) and all of the required Discussion Board postings. Responses for ET work will be submitted directly by email to the instructor.

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**NOTE: Weeks run from Monday mornings to Sunday midnights (excepting the last week of the semester) and all DB posts are due by midnight Sunday**

Week One (August 24-30):

Introduction to the course—be sure to respond to the “Welcome” Discussion!

*Much Ado About Nothing*, Acts I and II

Week Two (Aug 31-Sept 6):

*Much Ado*, Acts III, IV, and V

Week Three (Sept 7-13):

*Othello*, Acts I and II

Week Four (Sept 14-20):

*Othello*, Acts III and IV

Discussion of First Research Projects (see the Readings for choices)

Week Five (Sept 21-27):

*Othello*, Act V

Research Project One due (on the Assignments) by midnight Sunday

Week Six (Sept 28-Oct 4):

Discussion of history plays; *Richard III*, Acts I and II

Week Seven (Oct 5-11):

*Richard III*, Acts III and IV

Discussion of Second Research Projects

Week Eight (Oct 12-18):

*Richard III*, Act V

Research Project Two due (on the Assignments) by midnight Sunday

Week Nine (Oct 19-25):

Discussion of Revenge Tragedy; *Hamlet*, Act I

Week Ten (Oct 26-Nov 1):

*Hamlet*, Act II

Week Eleven (Nov 2-8):

*Hamlet*, Acts III and IV

Discussion of Third Research Project

Week Twelve (Nov 9-15):

*Hamlet*, Act V

Third Research Project due (on the Assignments) midnight Sunday

Week Thirteen (Nov 16-20):

**Please note that this is a short final week! The DB will close at midnight on November 20**

Please use this week for revision and catch-up on the Discussion Board

Final portfolio, to include your three revised research projects and an introduction of 250 words to your research and writing process: DUE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29 at MIDNIGHT on the ASSIGNMENTS