

English 263
Fall 2014
CRN #81533
1-2:15 TTh, 102 Chitwood

Byron Nelson
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Office hour: 2:30-3 pm, TTh

SHAKESPEARE

REQUIRED TEXTS (2):

Shakespeare, *Complete Works of Shakespeare*, ed. Bevington (7th ed., Longman Pearson)
Shakespeare and Wilkins, *Pericles*, ed. Warren (Oxford Classic Shakespeare)

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1 Aug. 19 Introduction—why study Shakespeare? (Suggested reading: lv-lxxii)
Aug. 21 Selected scenes—how does Shakespeare construct scenes?
- 2 Aug. 26 Julius Caesar, Acts 1 and 2
Aug. 28 Julius Caesar, Acts 3-5; **QUIZ**
- 3 Sept. 2 Midsummer Night's Dream, Acts 1-2
Sept. 4 Midsummer Night's Dream, Acts 3-4
- 4 Sept. 9 Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 5; **QUIZ**
Sept. 11 Much Ado About Nothing, Act 1
- 5 Sept. 16 Much Ado, Acts 2-3
Sept. 18 Much Ado, Acts 4-5
- 6 Sept. 23 **EXAM (JC, MND and MUCH ADO)**
Sept. 25 Twelfth Night, Act 1
- 7 Sept. 30 Twelfth Night, Acts 2-3
Oct. 2 Twelfth Night, Acts 4-5
- 8 Oct. 7 King Henry IV, Pt. 1, Act 1-Act 2.3
Oct. 9 Henry IV, Pt. 1, 2.4-Act 3
- 9 Oct. 16 Henry IV, Pt. 1, Acts 4-5; **QUIZ**
- FALL BREAK, Oct. 11-14**
- 10 Oct. 21 Hamlet, Act 1
Oct. 23 Hamlet, Act 2
- 11 Oct. 28 Hamlet, Acts 3-4
Oct. 30 Hamlet, Act 5; **QUIZ**
- 12 Nov. 4 **ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY**

- Nov. 6 Macbeth, Acts 1-3
- 13 Nov. 11 Macbeth, Act 4-5; **QUIZ**
 Nov. 13 Pericles (Oxford Classic Shakespeare edition), Scenes 1-6 (pp. 91-133);
 also Introduction, pp. 8-13, 36-38
- 14 Nov. 18 Pericles, Scenes 7-14 (pp. 133-169)
 Nov. 20 Pericles, Scenes 15-22 (pp. 169-229)

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, Nov. 22-30

- 15 Dec. 2 The Tempest, Act 1
 Dec. 4 Tempest, Acts 2-3; **PAPER ON PERICLES DUE**
- 16 Dec. 9 Tempest, Acts 4-5

FINAL EXAM: Tues., Dec. 16, 11-1

RATIONALE AND COURSE POLICIES

The course surveys the life and work of the poet and playwright William Shakespeare (1564-1616). We will read and discuss nine plays and some short scenes. The course offers a fresh evaluation of the most important writer in the English language; his plays exhibit an unparalleled facility with language, intelligence, playfulness, compassion and creativity. Shakespeare lived only two sovereigns (Elizabeth I and James I) during the most exciting period of English history, when England participated in the radical experiments of the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation.

TEXTS: There are two required texts: David Bevington's exemplary edition of Shakespeare's works (now in its 7th edition—but earlier used editions of Bevington will be fine) and Roger Warren's reconstructed text of Shakespeare's collaboration with George Wilkins on his first romance, *Pericles*. (This text differs sharply from the standard version.) ALWAYS BRING THE BEVINGTON EDITION TO CLASS, except for the discussions of *Pericles*—and be prepared to read aloud.

POLICIES: Regular attendance is expected, and active participation is a key component of your final grade; as on the job, attendance will be recorded. Your grade will drop after THREE ABSENCES. I may schedule occasional visits to the large Audio-Visual classroom in the basement of Wise Library; attendance at these sessions is crucial, as there will be questions on the filmed versions in the quizzes. Papers, quizzes and exams are due on the dates listed above. Do not send papers as e-mail attachments or leave voice messages, but feel free to send questions via e-mail. I accept WVU's Social Justice statement.

GRADING: Your grade will be calculated on the basis of points: Final exam 20 points; *Pericles* paper 10 points; exam 20 points; five quizzes 10 points each; for perfect attendance, add 5 points.

