

PM

SE 99

ENGLISH LITERATURE, ENG 40660
Early Shakespeare
Instructor: Dan Furst

April - June, 1999
Wednesdays, 5:30-9:40pm
Pearl Harbor Naval Base

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Textbooks: Barnet, Sylvan, ed., The Complete Signet Classic Shakespeare, New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1972

General Course Requirements:

Attendance is required at all classes. Students are expected to read all of the assigned material, and to participate in class discussions.

The final grade is based on four parts: 25% for each of the Exams; 25% for the oral report; 15% for the film or theatre review, or in-class delivery of a speech from Shakespeare; and 10% for class participation.

Grading:

- A Outstanding scholarship and intellectual initiative
- B Superior work done in a consistent and intelligent manner
- C Average grade, representing a basic grasp of the subject
- D Work of below-average quality, but still passing
- F Failure to grasp the minimum of the subject material, OR failure to withdraw officially from the course
- W Official withdrawal from the course
- I Incomplete. This grade means that the student has been unable, for a valid reason, to complete the course work on the assigned schedule. If the student wishes to complete the course and receive another grade, he or she must sign a contract with the instructor, specifying the completion requirements and deadlines.

COURSE SYLLABUS

- 4/7 Course Orientation and Discussion of Requirements
Introduction to Shakespeare's Life and Times
Film, Julius Caesar
- 4/14 The Taming of the Shrew
Film
- 4/21 Romeo and Juliet
Film
- 4/28 Henry IV, Part 1
Film
- 5/5 Henry V
Film
- 5/12 MidTerm Exam
Video
- 5/19 Twelfth Night
- 5/26 Midsummer Night's Dream
Introduction to Hamlet
- 6/2 Hamlet
Film
- 6/9 Final Exam

ORAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS:

You must prepare and deliver an oral report about one of the plays in the syllabus, or one of the background topics chosen by your instructor, or a topic of your choice which your instructor has approved. Topic selections must be made no later than the third week of class, on April 21. Reports will be scheduled so that two or three reports will be given in each class, except for Exam days.

Your oral report should run about 8 - 10 minutes. A written version of your report, about 800 words in length, is due a week after you give your report, and the class discusses it. In this way you can benefit from the feedback of others in the class, and you may have new insights on your topic. You must give your oral report and turn in your written report on the days you have scheduled, unless special circumstances make this impossible for you. Your report counts for 20% of your final grade.

If you are reporting on one of the plays, please note that your report should not simply be a re-telling of the story. Assume that everyone in the class has read the play and knows the story, so you don't need to relate the plot in detail. What you do need to do is focus on the main themes, images and human situations you think the author is trying to communicate.

Instead of reporting on one of the plays, you may choose instead a background topic such as one of these:

Voyages of exploration and discovery in the 16th century
Galileo and the Impact of Science on Shakespeare's Time
Dynastic Politics: the Wars of the Roses
Religious Conflict, and its Effect on Shakespeare's England
Queen Elizabeth I and her Reign

Or you may report on another topic, provided that it has your instructor's approval.

FILM or THEATRE REVIEW, or SPEECH from SHAKESPEARE

You have the option of either attending and reviewing a film or stage performance of a Shakespeare play, or memorizing and delivering in class a speech from one of the plays in the syllabus.

REVIEW: Your review should be about 400 words long. The rules for the oral report apply in the sense that you should not devote much space to re-telling the story. Concentrate on what the main point of the story, as you see it, and on your evaluation of the film or production. The quickest and easiest way to take care of this requirement is to report on "Shakespeare in Love," which is like a brilliant crash course on theatre in Shakespeare's time. A few film version of "Midsummer Night's Dream" is due to arrive in Hawaii next month.

While your review need not be delivered orally, your instructor may ask the writers of outstanding reviews to share them with the class.

SPEECH: You may memorize a speech of 25 lines or more from one of the plays in the syllabus, and deliver it in class. The emphasis here is partly on capturing the musicality of the language, but mainly on showing how the speech convey's the character's state of mind at this point in the play. You should be prepared to talk about the speech, and answer the class's questions about it, after your recitation.

Your Review or Speech will count for 15% of your final grade.