

English 333/533
Shakespeare: The Early Plays
Fall 2018
Michael Steffes

Collins 447, Office Hours: M, W, F 12-1 & by appointment (msteffes@uwsp.edu)

The purpose of English 333/533 is to develop a deeper understanding of several plays from the early part of Shakespeare's career. Building students' skills in critical thinking through interpreting texts from a cultural context very different from our own is an important part of the work we will do. For English majors, this class partially fulfills the Major Authors requirement and the GEP Communication in the Major requirement. (Learning Outcomes for Communication in the Major: "Upon completing this requirement, students will be able to *Apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience. *Critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.") It also fulfills the university's requirements for GDR Humanities 2 credit.

Textbook: *The Norton Shakespeare*, vol. 1, Early Poems and Plays (3rd ed.)

Requirements: quizzes, informal writing in class, participation in discussion (10% of course grade);

a short paper to be shared with the class (4-5 pages, 20%, to be scheduled individually);

a long paper (8-10 pages [15-20 pages for graduate credit], 40%; this assignment includes a proposal);

two exams (midterm, 10%, final, 20%);

regular attendance (after 2 unexcused absences, I will lower your course grade one step for each additional absence; for example, 3 unexcused absences will reduce an A- average to a B+ course grade).

Students should familiarize themselves with the university's policies about plagiarism.

As a courtesy to others, all electronic devices must be out of sight and turned off during class meetings. Recording classes without permission is a violation of English department policy.

Sept. 4: introduction; **Sept. 6:** *Titus Andronicus*

(over)

Sept. 11 & 13: *Titus Andronicus*, cont.

Sept. 18 & 20: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Sept. 25: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, cont.; **Sept. 27:** *Romeo and Juliet*

Oct. 2 & 4: *Romeo and Juliet*, cont.

Oct. 9: *Romeo and Juliet*, cont.; **Oct. 11:** *Richard II*

Oct. 16 & 18: *Richard II*, cont.

Oct. 23: *Richard II*, cont.; review; **Oct. 25:** midterm exam

Oct. 30 & Nov. 1: *Henry IV, Part 1*

Nov. 6: *Henry IV, Part 1*, cont. **Nov. 8:** *Merchant of Venice*

Nov. 9: proposal for 2nd paper due, 2 p.m.

Nov. 13 & 15: *The Merchant of Venice*, cont.

Nov. 20: *The Merchant of Venice*, cont. **Nov. 22:** Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 27 & 29: *As You Like It*

Dec. 4 & 6: *As You Like It*

Dec. 11: *As You Like It*, cont. **Dec. 13:** review

Dec. 14: 2nd paper due by 2 p.m.

Final Examination: Monday, Dec. 17, 10:15-12:15