

ENGLISH 101.900

Shakespeare

syllabus draft

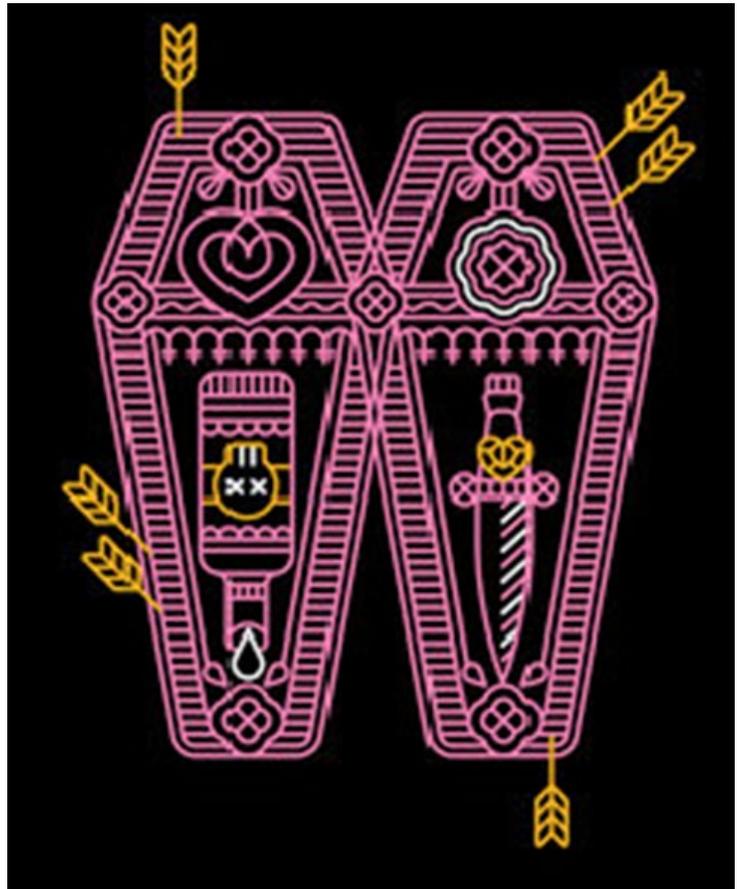
Tuesday, 5:30-8:30, Location TBD

Instructor: Alicia Meyer

Office: Fisher-Bennett Hall 213

Office Hours: TBD

Email: aliciame@sas.upenn.edu



Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to some of Shakespeare's most popular works, with no prior experience expected or required. We will read some of Shakespeare's poetry and plays including comedies such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, tragedies such as *Hamlet*, and romances such as *Cymbeline* and *A Winter's Tale*. We will engage these texts through a range of critical lenses and will discuss how the plays interact with our own ideas about gender and sexuality, political power, and race and religion. Our coursework will cultivate critical skills in reading and writing about language, literary form and historical context. We will also explore how Shakespeare's plays can be performed through an in-class performance assignment. Additional course requirements include short response papers (2-3 pages each), two exams, attendance, and participation in discussion.

Required Texts:

- William Shakespeare, *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ed. Katherine Duncan-Jones. ISBN 9781408017975.
- William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ed. Sukanta Chaudhuri. ISBN 9781408133491.
- William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ed. Ann Thompson, Neil Taylor. ISBN: 9781472518385.
- William Shakespeare, *Cymbeline*, The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ed. Valerie Wayne. ISBN 9781904271307.
- William Shakespeare, *A Winter's Tale*, The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ed. John Pitcher. ISBN 9781903436356.
- William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ed. Rene Weis ISBN 9781903436912.

Learning Accessibility:

I am committed to the classroom being a shared place where we can work collaboratively. We each learn in different ways and will all need accommodations. If circumstances affect your performance in the class, please let me know. Together, we can decide how to best accommodate your learning preferences and alter the course to meet your needs.

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability that may affect your work in the course, please contact Penn's Office of Student Disabilities Services at 215.573.9235. The office is located in the Weingarten Learning Resources Center at Stouffer Commons on 3702 Spruce Street in Suite 300. All services are confidential.

Our course materials and discussions will engage depictions of violence, racism, sexism, sexual abuse, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and other topics that may elicit intense responses and disagreement. Throughout the course we will have frank and challenging conversations on these subjects and about our personal and institutional responsibilities. As your instructor, I will work to facilitate conversations that are respectful of every student and that are attentive to the conditions that produce uneven degrees of safety in the classroom.

Academic Integrity:

All Penn students are bound by the Code of Academic Integrity and are assumed to have read and understood it. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please see the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity at: http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_codeofacademicintegrity.html and http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_plagiarismwhatisit.html, or ask me.

Late Work:

If you encounter circumstances that impede your ability to submit an assignment on time, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the assignment deadline. Except in the event of a last-minute emergency, no written work will be accepted late.

Attendance Policy:

Please let me know prior to class if you will be absent. You will be given two unexcused absences throughout the course, but any further class absences will affect your grade by one-third (e.g. A- to B+).

Assignments:

Participation: 15% of Final Grade

Because the attendance policy is quite strict, in-class participation is an important part of your over all grade. Participation is measured by preparedness, listening, and willingness to try on new ideas in class.

Performance: 15% of Final Grade

Response Papers (3): 30% of Final Grade

Three response papers of 2-3 pages each will be assigned throughout the course of the semester which will help to refine your critical reading and writing skills. Individual documents detailing the requirements of the response papers will be uploaded to the "Assignments" section on canvas and discussed in class.

Exams (2): 40% of Final Grade

There will be an in-class midterm exam and an in-class final exam which will test your reading of the plays and course lectures and other materials.

Schedule: **syllabus subject to revision**

Week 1
Tuesday

Welcome! Introduction Lecture

Week 2
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *Sonnets*

Week 3
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night's Dream*
Response 1 Due 5:00 to Canvas

Week 4
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Week 5
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Week 6
Tuesday

Midterm Exam

Week 7
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*

Week 8
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *Cymbeline*
Response 2 Due 5:00 to Canvas

Week 9
Tuesday

Performance Day!

Week 10
Tuesday

Read: Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*
Response 3 Due 5:00 to Canvas

Week 11
Tuesday

Final Exam