

**Syllabus for Literature 223: Readings in Drama  
Shakespeare  
Winter Semester 2007**

**Instructor:** Drew Colenbrander

Please don't ever hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, or if you just want to talk. Here's how to reach me:

**Faculty Office:** My office is S-2, in the lower level of the Fine Arts Building, just past the English Division Office. While it's best to make an appointment to see me, you are always free to stop by my office to see if I'm available. If you cannot see me during my scheduled office hours, contact me to set up an appointment at another time. Below are my office hours for this semester:

**Office Phone Number:** (989) 686-9165: Call me at any time. If I'm not in, leave a message, and I'll call you back as soon as I can. In your message, tell me a good time to reach you.

**E-Mail:** [ajcolenb@delta.edu](mailto:ajcolenb@delta.edu)

This is a good way to contact me outside of my office hours, but please do not depend on your message reaching me immediately. I will respond to you as soon as possible.

**Required Texts:**

Complete text versions of the following Shakespeare plays:

*Henry IV, Part One*

*Othello*

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*The Tempest*

Also, Charles Boyce, *Shakespeare, A to Z*

**Required Course Materials:**

Loose leaf folder, with pockets, for your Journal

4" x 6" notecards, for daily quiz

Notebook, with pockets, for taking notes and keeping course materials

## **Course Goals:**

Our goals in this course are many, but they are all interrelated by an exploration of the continuing legacy of Shakespeare's works. We will carefully read four plays, in order to study Shakespeare's literary achievements in the four main genres: of his plays: History, Tragedy, Comedy, and Romance.

We will also look at a variety of modern performances of Shakespeare's plays, from live theatrical productions to film versions and adaptations of his works. A key goal in "seeing" Shakespeare will be to consider his plays as dynamic, transcendent works.

## **Course Requirements:**

**Class Preparation and Attendance:** Regular attendance, punctuality, and thorough preparation for class are absolutely essential to successfully complete this course. Much of the class will be centered on discussion, for which you will need to be prepared, and to which everyone is expected to contribute.

**Daily Quiz:** At the beginning of each meeting, there will be a brief quiz on the assigned reading for that day. No quiz can be made up. If you miss class or arrive too late to take the quiz, you will receive zero points for that quiz.

**Excessive Absences:** If you miss class, or are excessively late, three times, you will be unable to pass the course. If you stop coming to class, be sure to officially drop through the Registration Office. Do not count on me to drop you from the course.

If you must miss class meetings for a genuine emergency, contact me in advance of the absence, provide written documentation for the emergency, and the absence may be excused.

## **Course Assignments and Grades**

### **Weekly Readings:**

The essence of this class is reading. There will be reading assignments, with written response, nearly every week. To be successful in this course, please be certain that you will be able to complete the reading and writing requirements. Be sure to see me if you have any questions or concerns about this or any aspect of the course.

### **Reading Response and Reflective Journal:**

This is a continuous journal that you will keep in which you respond to specific questions from weekly reading assignments and add further reflections from class discussion, films, and other activities.

**Format:** Please make sure your name, the date you completed each journal entry, and the name of the play you are discussing are included in an upper corner of the first page of your journal. Journals may be typed or hand written, but, if written, must be legible and on full size paper. Staple multiple pages of a journal entry together.

**Style:** The purpose of these journals is for informal reflection on the readings. By informal, I mean that you should not concern yourself overly with style or text preparation. However, do be careful with spelling, especially names from the reading, and proofread at least once for small errors.

**Documentation:** All journals must use quotations from the texts to support your ideas. When you quote any published work in your journal, make sure you include a page citation in parentheses at the end of the sentence, like this: (23).

**Journal Grades:** I will collect the journals for grading at random times during the semester. Be sure to always come to class with your completed journal. I will grade the journals on the care and thought put into their content. I don't want to dictate length, but it is hard to imagine carefully prepared, thoughtful journal entries less than two full pages long.

**Exams:** You will have two essay exams in this class. Each will ask you to discuss in depth significant themes and ideas related to the plays we are reading. I will give instructions on the exams. An important part of your preparation will be to keep careful notes in class and highlight and annotate your books.

**Review Essay:** This formal essay will ask you to write an informed evaluation of a Shakespeare play in performance, either a dramatic production or a film version. I will give you complete directions for the content development of this assignment, as well as other required aspects of the essay.

**Honors Credit:** I encourage anyone who is interested to do an Honors Option project in this course. An Honors Option is a substantial project that explores some aspect of the course topic in depth. Projects may be done individually or in small groups. You must be admitted to the Honors Program to receive Honors credit. If you are interested in doing an Honors Option, be sure to contact me within the first two weeks of the semester.

**Late Work:** Any late journal or paper will lose 10% of the grade for each day turned in late. No work can be turned in for credit after the last class meeting of the semester.

**Grading Information:** I will use the following formula to calculate your course grade at the end of the semester:

Daily Quiz:	15%
Journal:	30%
Review Essay:	15%
Exam One:	20%
Exam Two:	20%

**Plagiarism:** Using someone's ideas or information, without giving that source credit, is completely unacceptable in college. Any graded assignment that is plagiarized will receive a zero grade and may result in the failure of the course. Please be sure to see me if you have any questions or concerns about documentation of sources or plagiarism.