

# ENGLISH 209

## Introduction to Shakespeare



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**Student Office Hour:** *By appointment. To reach the instructor by phone please call the instruction office at College of the Siskiyous and leave your name and a call back number, and best time to call with the staff: 530-938-5375*

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*Please feel free to contact the instructor anytime through the private message section on the ETUDES site. All messages posted Monday-Thursday will be answered within 24hrs. , Friday-Sunday messages will be answered on Monday.*

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### Course Details:

**Course Time:** The course meets entirely online from Monday, July 6, 2009 and continues through Friday, August 14, 2009 @ 5:00pm pst.

**Course Units:** 3

**Prerequisites:** Advisory ENGL 1A

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### Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Shakespeare, his theatre, and some important concepts of his world. Students will have the opportunity to examine Shakespearean tragedies, comedies, histories and sonnets. In addition to class discussions, students will enhance their understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's plays by analyzing film versions and live stage productions.

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### Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Compare, contrast and criticize the attitudes and reactions to significant English Renaissance events and articulate how those elements shaped literature and the world view. Discuss the significance of how cultural issues influence the critical analysis of a text
2. Understand the relationship that exists between Shakespeare's works and today's society.
3. Illustrate the importance of England's historical events, cultural values, traditions, beliefs and Shakespeare's works.
4. Develop a sound critical argument supported by textual evidence and to present that argument in a correctly referenced academic essay.
5. Understand Shakespeare's language, style, his treatment of gender issues and expand their ability to develop skills of close reading and to consider plays not only as texts to be read, but also as works written to be performed.

## Themes, concepts and issues covered:

### 1) Understanding Shakespeare's Plays

a) Types of plays

i) Tragedy

ii) Comedy

iii) Romance

iv) Problem Plays

v) Histories

### 2) Shakespeare's works in relation to genre, structure, style and components

a) Allegory

b) Satire

c) Morality play

d) Revenge tragedy

e) Tragicomedy

f) Myth

g) Tragic hero

h) Classical drama

i) Soliloquy

j) Setting

k) Scenes

l) Acts

m) Plot

n) Characters

o) Chorus

p) Prologue

q) Epilogue

r) Cross-dressing

s) Irony

t) Metaphor

### 3) Renaissance literary and cultural history

### 4) The Shakespearean Sonnet form

a) Iambic pentameter

b) Heroic couplet

c) Blank verse

### 5) Translation from the page to the stage or screen

a) Publishing history

b) History of performance of plays

c) Modern adaptations of Shakespeare's plays

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## REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *The Norton Shakespeare*, 1997  
ISBN: 13: 9780393970876

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## **GRADING: No Late Assignments Accepted**

**The course is broken up into six 1-week long units. Each unit will cover a specific topic. Throughout the course of each unit (week), you will be required to complete three tasks:**

### **Task One:**

**Activities:** 50 pts.

Each unit will have a specific topic that we will discuss in great detail. You will be asked to do some of your own research on these topics and report back to the group with your findings. Details for each activity will be placed in the *assignments* section. Activity papers must be at least 200 words but no more than 400 words and should be thought provoking. The data you collect must provide information that reflects the attitudes and reactions to significant ideas, events, and/or the people involved in the unit topic and must articulate how the reflected elements shape literature and the world view. In order to receive full credit for your activity you must turn in your work to both the *assignments* section as well as the *discussion forum*.

### **Task Two:**

**Reader Response and Forum Post:** 50pts.

There will be specific assigned readings from the *Norton Shakespeare* text. You are required to read all assigned material. In order to receive full credit for your response you must develop a critical reader response paper addressing **one** of the assigned topics. Detailed instruction for each response will be placed in the *assignments* section. Make sure to illustrate importance elements such as historical events, cultural values, traditions and beliefs.

Response must be at least 200 words but no more than 400 words and turned in to the *assignments* section as well as the *discussion forum*.

### **Task Three:**

**Discussion Post:** 50pts.

In order to receive full credit for the discussion post, you must reply to two other posted responses from the forum that discuss different topics than the one you yourself responded to. Forum discussions need to be detailed and in such a manner that it is clear that you have read the material. Simple discussions such as, "I agree" will not be accepted.

### **Mid-Term Exam:**

**Open book exam:** 150 pts.

### **Final Exam:**

**Open book exam:** 150 pts.

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## COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** Assignments are due on a weekly basis and completion of these assignments at the proper date/time is critical to successfully completing this class. Make sure to check the site at least twice a week for notes and class information. Graded assignments are due upon requested dates/times and **will not be accepted if turned in late**. Arrangements need to be made ahead of time if you know you are not going to be able to turn in work on scheduled date, send a message to the instructor to request alternative due dates.
- **Withdrawal:** A student withdrawing from COS has the responsibility of notifying the Admissions and Records Office and completing all necessary forms. A student may withdraw from a full-semester class through the last day of the tenth week of instruction.
- **Incomplete:** The COS policy for granting an incomplete is found in the catalog. Forms available from the registrar and from academic advisors should be used for establishing an incomplete grad contract.
- **Plagiarism:** The work turned in for this class is to be solely your own. All sources must be properly documented. Academic dishonesty will result in failing the class. Understand, you commit plagiarism when you present the ideas or words of others as if they were your own.
- **Missed Work and Late Assignments:** Any assignment may be turned in ahead of the due date. All assignments not turned in on their specified dates will not be accepted. If you know you are going to miss a critical date, contact the instructor and work out arrangements to turn in work prior to the class date you will be missing.

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## STUDENT SERVICES

- **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Disabled Student Services:** The Disabled Student Services Program is available to provide a system of services to increase educational opportunities and ensure equal access to students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for each student with a documented disability to gain maximum benefit from the educational experience. Contact them at 938-5297 or stop by Eddy Hall for more information.
- **Learning Resources Center: Critical Skills Center:** Services for all students including a writing and computer lab. Papers may be submitted for review by email. **Writing Assistance for Online Students:** Students in an online course may submit papers to the Writing Lab for review, but they must adhere to the following guidelines.
  - E-mail papers to [writelab@siskiyous.edu](mailto:writelab@siskiyous.edu)
  - Further details go to <http://www.siskiyous.edu/writinglab/services.htm>