

ENGLISH/PWAD 660: War in Shakespeare's Plays

Syllabus and Policies
Spring 2010
T R 3:30-4:45 PM

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TEXT: The Complete Works of Shakespeare, ed. David Bevington, 6th ed., 2008.

The Appendices, pages A84-87, offer useful genealogies and maps. Other scholarly editions may serve, but you'll have to be nimble to find the pages. Our Library has numerous editions, videos and DVDs. The movies of Henry V by Olivier and by Branagh are required viewing on your own. The battle of Agincourt, a major feature of Henry V, is analyzed in the first third of The Face of Battle by John Keegan. Three copies are on One-Day Reserve in UGL.

We take up the plays in (mostly) the order he wrote them, c. 1590-1610.

King John		Jan. 12-19
Henry VI, Parts 1,2,3		Jan. 21-28
Richard III	<i>selections</i>	Feb. 2
Henry IV, Parts 1,2	<i>selections</i>	Feb. 4
Henry V		Feb. 9-16
Troilus and Cressida	<i>selections</i>	Feb. 18-23
All's Well That Ends Well	<i>selections</i>	Feb. 25
Hamlet	<i>selections</i>	Mar. 2
MIDTERM EXAM		Mar. 4
Othello	<i>selections</i>	Mar. 16-18
King Lear	<i>selections</i>	Mar. 23
Macbeth		Mar. 25-27
Julius Caesar		Apr. 1-6
Antony and Cleopatra		Apr. 8-13
Coriolanus		Apr. 15-20
Cymbeline	<i>selections</i>	Apr. 22
FINAL EXAM		

Assignments:

1. Since the ability to read Shakespeare's language is vital, you will read a passage aloud in my office, details tba.
2. The first day of class on each play begins with a quiz about the plot, characters, their actions and fate. (Questions are not repeated for latecomers.) The purpose of the quizzes is to help create informed discussion in class and to show the consistency of your application to the course. At the end, if your quiz average is below 75%, that will weigh against your getting the higher grade if you are on the borderline (e.g. between B-/C+). The quality of your participation in class discussions will also influence your final grade. More than three unexcused absences will lower your grade.
3. There will be two short papers, a mid-term exam and a cumulative final exam. My exams consist of passages for identification and commentary, and short essays, with a small amount of choice on both kinds of questions. The final exam will cover all writings treated during the semester, with emphasis on those not tested previously. As the culminating exercise, the final counts 50% of your grade for the course.

Participation in this course requires your full compliance with the Honor Code. Out of respect for the conscientiousness and responsibility which most students manifest, late work will not be accepted or "make-ups" given for missed quizzes and exams (unless missed through illness for which an official verification is presented). There are no rewrites or "extra credits": do the assignments to the best of your ability in the first instance. If you have questions about any aspect of the course, consult me immediately after class or in my office hours as announced and by appointment, or via email (above).