

Course Syllabus – ENGL 212.501, Shakespeare

Course Information:

Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15-4:30pm

Location: Online via ZOOM (click the first link on eCampus under the “Start Here” tab)

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information:

Name: Courtney Price (call me “Ms. Price” or “Professor Price”)

Office: LAAH 521

Office Hours: Online via ZOOM, Monday and Tuesday from 10:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment (click the second link on eCampus under the “Start Here” tab)

Course Description:

This course will explore selected works of William Shakespeare, examining the intellectual and cultural climate in which his plays were written and performed. Though this class will focus on a number of cultural issues, special attention will be paid to representations of the theatre and theatricality in Shakespeare’s works, as well as the role of acting and spectacles in Elizabethan England.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to articulate key concepts and ideas in the works of Shakespeare.
2. Students will be able to better understand the broader historical and cultural context in which Shakespeare’s work flourished.
3. Students will develop an understanding of how old and new productions of Shakespeare reflect an array of aesthetic sensibilities and perspectives on the human condition.
4. Students will be able to articulate how the materiality and visual features of Shakespeare’s works expand their interpretive possibilities.

CORE Curriculum Objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Textbooks and Required Materials

All of the plays and poems taught in this course can be found online for free on the Folger Shakespeare Library's website (<https://shakespeare.folger.edu>). For editions that come with notes and aids for understanding Shakespeare's language, I recommend the Folger Library Editions of each play, which can be found online and at used book stores for low cost. Whichever version students choose, they will need access to the following plays: *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *Richard II*, *Macbeth*, and *The Winter's Tale*. Excerpts from the *Sonnets* will be posted to eCampus.

Given the nature of the online course, students will need access to a computer that meets the university's minimum standards. The list of standards can be found on the university website (<https://it.tamu.edu/services/academics-and-research/teaching-and-learning-tools/computer-requirements/>).

Students will also need access to a video recording device for one assignment (phone cameras and webcams will get the job done).

Grading Policy:

The course will be graded on a standard A-F scale as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79 %
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Grades will not be rounded up.

Course Assignments

Sonnet Scramble: Students will develop an editorial version of a Shakespearean sonnet derived from copies sent to them from their classmates.

Adaptation Brief: Students will develop an alternative setting for a Shakespearean comedy covered in class that transposes the play's historical period, location, or both. The brief will include visualizations of set pieces, costume briefs for major characters, and an 800-1000 word rationale.

Character Analysis: Students will compare and contrast two characters from plays covered in this class, exploring the theatrical concept of foils in 800-1000 words.

Video Performance: Students will work in teams to produce a short video performance of a scene from a play covered in this class. Students should record their parts separately from home and use basic video editing software or apps (free on most computers and phones) to merge their videos.

Class Twitter: Students will create a Twitter account (with the option of anonymity outside class) that they will use to engage in online discussion of the course and interact with Shakespearean scholars and performers. Students should tweet at least once per class period.

Class Study Guide: Students will collaborate in teams to produce a study guide for one of Shakespeare's works as preparation for the final exam.

Final Exam: Students will be asked to identify major characters, plot arcs, and themes for each of the plays covered in this class on a multiple choice exam. Students will then be asked to synthesize major course themes across multiple course texts in an essay component. The final exam will be held online via eCampus during the scheduled examination period listed on the course schedule.

Assignment Grade Calculator (in points):

Sonnet Scramble	50
Adaptation Brief	200
Character Analysis	150
Video Performance	100
Class Twitter	100
Class Study Guide	150
Final Exam	200

Total	1000
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Course Policies

Attendance: Students should attend all class meetings. Students receive three free unexcused absences, no questions asked. Starting with the fourth unexcused absence, the student will lose 5 points from their final grade at the end of the semester for each unexcused absence over three. Students who have a university-excused absence should let Ms. Price know as soon as possible. A university-excused absence entitles students to arrange a make-up work schedule with Ms. Price, and does not count toward the three unexcused absences policy.

Late Work: Students may submit late work for the following major assignments: Adaptation Brief, Character Analysis, Video Performance, and Class Study Guide. Late submissions will be penalized by 10% of the assignment's final grade for each day after the original due date that the assignment was submitted, including weekends. In the case of group work, only the students who do not submit their contributions on time will be penalized.

Plagiarism: Students are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code, the specific rules on plagiarism, and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures pertaining to classroom behavior as explained at <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>. See below for additional critical information on plagiarism.

Incomplete Submissions: Students should be aware that any assignment submission that does not meet the minimum requirements (e.g. word count) will be considered incomplete, and will receive an automatic zero. Incomplete submissions are determined on an individual basis. Group members who submit their portions of an assignment will not be penalized for other members who submit incomplete components.

University Policies and Information

Attendance: The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work: Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines. Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work,

and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)). "The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)). Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3](#), [Student Rule 20](#)). You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy: Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality: Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, you will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness: Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

COVID-19 Temporary Amendment to Minimum Syllabus Requirements: The Faculty Senate temporarily added the following statements to the minimum syllabus requirements in Fall 2020 as part of the university's COVID-19 response.

Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- Face Coverings—[Face coverings](#) (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face

coverings and additional guidance are provided in the [Face Covering policy](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) available on the [Provost website](#).

- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the [Student Conduct office](#) for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.

Personal Illness and Quarantine

Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and **must not attend face-to-face course activities**. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence (See [Student Rule 7, Section 7.2.2](#).) To receive an excused absence, students must comply with the documentation and notification guidelines outlined in Student Rule 7. While Student Rule 7, Section 7.3.2.1, indicates a medical confirmation note from the student's medical provider is preferred, **for Fall 2020 only, students may use the Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class form in lieu of a medical confirmation. Students must submit the Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class within two business days after the last date of absence.**

Operational Details for Fall 2020 Courses

For additional information, please review the [FAQ](#) on Fall 2020 courses at Texas A&M University.

Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion, so long as students are notified in a timely manner. All readings are due at class time.

Week 1

Aug. 20: Course Overview

Week 2—Introductions

Aug. 25: Who Was Shakespeare?

Aug. 27: Shakespeare's England

Assignments: Sonnet Scramble Part 1 due Aug. 31 at 9:00pm via eCampus.

Week 3—The Sonnets

Sep. 1: Print Culture

Sep. 3: Manuscript Culture

Assignments: Sonnet Scramble Part 2 due Sep. 3 at 3:00pm via eCampus

Week 4—Twelfth Night

Sep. 8: Act I & II

Sep. 10: Act III

Week 5—Twelfth Night (cont.)

Sep. 15: Act IV

Sep. 17: Act V

Week 6—The Taming of the Shrew

Sep. 22: Act I & II

Sep. 24: Act III

Week 7—The Taming of the Shrew (cont.)

Sep. 29: Act IV

Oct. 1: Act V

Assignments: Adaptation Brief due Oct. 2 at 9:00pm via eCampus.

Week 8—Richard II

Oct. 6: Act I & II

Oct. 8: Act III

Week 9—Richard II (cont.)

Oct. 13: Act IV

Oct. 15: Act V

Assignments: Video Performance due Oct. 16 at 9:00pm via eCampus.

Week 10—Macbeth

Oct. 20: Act I & II

Oct. 22: Act III

Week 11—Macbeth (cont.)

Oct. 27: Act IV

Oct. 29: Act V

Assignments: Character Analysis due Oct. 30 at 9:00pm on eCampus.

Week 12—The Winter's Tale

Nov. 3: Act I & II

Nov. 5: Act III

Week 13—The Winter's Tale (cont.)

Nov. 10: Act IV

Nov. 12: Act V

Week 14—Review Week

Nov. 17: Final discussion, choose favorite hashtags

Nov. 19: Questions and review day

Assignments: Class Study Guide due Nov. 20 at 9:00pm via eCampus.

Week 15

Nov. 24: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 26: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Final Exam: online via eCampus, on Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 2:00-4:30pm.