

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: EN 4453 SHAKESPEARE: THE GREAT TRAGEDIES		3/0/3						
(Updated: Fall 2023)		UK LEVEL: 6 UK CREDITS: 15						
PREREQUISITES:	WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics WP 1212 Academic Writing and Research EN 2220 Exploring Traditions in English Literature							
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Critical study of Shakespeare’s great tragedies, <i>Othello</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> , and <i>King Lear</i> , in the cultural context of Elizabethan and Jacobean England. Focus on Shakespeare's language, dramatic practices and theatrical milieu, and on the social, political, and philosophical issues raised in the plays.							
RATIONALE:	This course examines Shakespearean tragedy in its own time, contextualizing early modern debates about governance and nationhood, identity fashioning, social aspects such as gender, class, and race, and all other cultural parameters foregrounded through the plays. Through texts which remain central to the contemporary theatrical and literary experience around the globe, the course explores the ways in which Shakespeare represents a core value in the Western canon.							
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	<i>As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify and discuss the social, political, and philosophical issues as well as the theatrical practices of the age in relation to the ideologies of Shakespeare’s plays;2. Relate the theatrical traits and dramatic conventions evident in Shakespeare’s plays to the cultural context of Elizabethan and Jacobean England;3. Analyse through close engagement with each of the plays traits and themes evident in relation to genre and to context;4. Explore critical views on Shakespeare in scholarly material and relate theoretical discussions to a variety of readings of the plays.							
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lectures and class discussions.• Homework assignments.• Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to students.• Use of library facilities for further study and preparation for the exams• Use of the Blackboard course management platform to further support communication, by posting lecture notes, assignment instruction, timely announcements, formative quizzes and online submission of assignments.							
ASSESSMENT:	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Summative:</td></tr><tr><td>1st assessment: Examination (1000-1200 words) At least two critical responses; choice of topics offered</td><td>30%</td></tr><tr><td>Final assessment: Research Project (3000-3500 words) Analysis of plays developed through close reading; 6-8 critical sources in</td><td>70%</td></tr></table>		Summative:		1 st assessment: Examination (1000-1200 words) At least two critical responses; choice of topics offered	30%	Final assessment: Research Project (3000-3500 words) Analysis of plays developed through close reading; 6-8 critical sources in	70%
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Active engagement	0				
INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: Latest Arden <i>Shakespeare</i> editions of <i>Hamlet</i>, <i>King Lear</i>, <i>Othello</i>, and <i>Macbeth</i>.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: John Russell Brown. <i>Shakespeare: The Tragedies</i>. Palgrave, 2001. John Drakakis, ed. <i>Shakespearean Tragedy</i>. Longman, 1992. Jonathan Dollimore. <i>Radical Tragedy: Religion, Ideology and Power in the Drama of Shakespeare and his Contemporaries</i>. Palgrave, 2010. S. N. Garner and M. Sprengnether, ed. <i>Shakespearean Tragedy and Gender</i>. Indiana UP, 1996. David Scott Kastan. <i>Shakespeare After Theory</i>. Routledge, 1999. Russ McDonald, ed. <i>Shakespeare: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory, 1945-2000</i>. Blackwell, 2004. Andrew Murphy, ed. <i>A Concise Companion to Shakespeare and the Text</i>. Blackwell, 2007. Phyllis Rackin. <i>Shakespeare and Women</i>. Oxford, 2005. Bruce R. Smith. <i>Shakespeare and Masculinity</i>. Oxford, 2000. Stanley Wells, ed. <i>Shakespeare in the Theatre: An Anthology of Criticism</i>. Oxford UP, 1997.</p>				
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: Supplementary material used to facilitate contextual understanding of the literary works (cinematic adaptations of the plays, documentaries on Shakespeare, online resources, etc.)</p>				
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	With the exception of the in-class examination, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.				
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	MS Office and Blackboard CMS Enter any additional s/w requirements.				
WWW RESOURCES:	http://www.bl.uk/treasures/shakespeare/homepage.html http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/index.html http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/ https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare				
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	Discussion focuses on each of the works, <i>Othello</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> , and <i>King Lear</i> , allowing at least three weeks for each play.				

	<p>Dramatic traits of each tragedy are explored in their cultural context.</p> <p>Through the close reading of the plays, emphasis is placed on the ways in which master narratives construct ideological perspectives and identities. Through connections between texts and cultural context the canon is problematized so that students realize how literary traditions are created but also how they can be interrogated and deconstructed.</p>
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