



Course Outline - English 3330E - Shakespeare

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Provost and by the course instructor.

Full Year Course
2022-23

This course will be delivered in-person.

Class Hours and Location:

Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:30 – BR-UH30

Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 – BR-UH27

Instructor Information

Blake Robertson

brober72@uwo.ca

Office: UH353

Office Hours: We will discuss the best time for Drop-In hours in class (these will be then posted on OWL)

Course Description

Shakespeare remains one of the most influential of English writers. What makes Shakespeare so captivating? Why do we continue to study and perform his works today? We will seek to answer these questions. This course studies ten plays across a range of genres. We will learn about the historical, literary, and political conditions of their creation. Further, we will discuss modern interpretations of these plays, both through editorial practice and performance, and investigate how they are used to interrogate and provoke discussions about topics of power, gender, nationalism, race, and sexuality. This is a multimedia course. We will be looking at images of early print editions, playhouse manuscripts, clips of live performances, as well as clips from film adaptations during lecture.

Course Materials

You may use any edition of the assigned Shakespeare texts available to you, as long as they contain line numbers and the entire play. The Folger Shakespeare Library Editions, edited by Mowatt and Werstine, are excellent. You may also use a Shakespeare anthology, like the *The Norton Shakespeare* edited by Stephen Greenblatt. Please use a

print edition that you can bring to class and take notes. In certain circumstances, accommodations can be made. If you are uncertain about the text you are using, bring it to me and we will discuss if it is suitable.

There are also useful online editions which you may make use of during your studies; I will show you where to access them in the first lecture. However, you are expected to have a *print* edition with you during class.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Richard III
Romeo and Juliet
Taming of the Shrew
Twelfth Night
Hamlet
Henry V
Othello
Macbeth
The Tempest

Learning Outcomes – Brescia Core Competencies (Level 3 and above)

By the end of this course, you should:

- have a firm understanding of the central critical and theoretical issues of Shakespearean discourse (*Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking*)
- know how to closely read, interpret, analyze, and discuss literary poetry and prose, with an emphasis on reading Shakespearean language (*Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking; Communication*)
- understand the language of editorial, literary, and performance criticism and be able to integrate this criticism into your own writing and research (*Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking; Communication*)
- work collaboratively with others in both class discussion and group projects (*Communication ; Problem Solving*)
- gain an understanding of Shakespearean performance culture and politics (*Inquiry and Analysis*)
- know how to effectively construct and defend a scholarly argument (*Communication; Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking*)
- learn how to convey a specific interpretation of a dramatic scene through traditional or digital means (*Communication; Critical Thinking; Self Awareness and Development*)
- be able to recognize how Shakespeare's plays can be used to address and grapple with contemporary social issues (*Inquiry and Analysis ; Critical Thinking*)
- be able to write clear and effective academic prose in accordance with MLA standards (*Communication*)

Expectations of Students

It is important to attend class each week. There will be lecture material, group discussions, group exercises, as well as small screenings from productions. It is important that you come prepared with the reading *completed* for the *first* week of each play.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Creative Shakespearean Writing – 5%

Short Essay (800 - 1000 words) – 10%

Passage Reflections – 10% (2 (200 – 300 words each) total, 5 % each)

Group Scene – 15 %

Second Paper (2000 – 2500 words) – 20 %

Final Exam – 30 %

Participation – 10 %

Creative Shakespearean Writing

Do not worry! You do not have to write your own Shakespearean verse! The goal of this assignment is to get you to better understand Shakespearean language. With a minimum of 20 lines from any of Shakespeare's plays or poems, you must construct a coherent poem or short scene. You can write on whatever topic you like. You may occasionally change a word or two for syntax, but the closer you are to the original line, the better. We will go over the best ways of searching specific language in Shakespeare's plays in class. You will be assessed on the coherence and creativity of your poem or short scene.

Short Essay (800 – 1000 words)

You are to write a short, thesis-driven essay on one of the topics given out in class a month before the due date. **Your argument *must* be primarily defended with textual evidence.** Secondary sources are not necessary, but you are welcome to use them if you would like (if you are uncertain about the source, please consult me first). If you need any

help deciding on a topic, come to me well in advance of the due date and we will figure it out together.

Passage Reflections (200 – 300 words each)

You must write two reflection papers on a line or passage from the play we are studying on the week of submission. You may submit a paper for any week during the academic year. You cannot write on the same play twice. You will be assessed on your ability to close read the line or passage in question with the intention of making a meaningful observation or commentary. Critical editions of the plays, as well as the OED, will be your friend here.

Group Scene

We will form groups of four or five (numbers may vary) after the first lecture. Each group will be responsible for performing one scene from one of the plays on the syllabus. The performances will be taking place during the **Winter** semester. Your date of performance need not correspond with the week(s) we are studying the play. Once again, do not fear! You do not need to be an actor to excel in this assignment. What is important here is recognizing the implied directions in Shakespearean dialogue. You can get creative here. You may present your scene as a traditional play, through film, or any other creative means you can think of. Just run it by me first. After a group's performance (or presentation), *each group member* will submit a 500- word reflection on your process and the choices you made for your scene. This paper is due **one week** after your performance.

We will discuss this more in class.

Second Essay (2000 – 2500 words)

Students are to write a 2000 – 2500 thesis- driven essay on one of topics posted online. You may also come up with your own topic, however, it must be approved by me at least 2 weeks in advance of the due date. Students must use at least two secondary sources from credible academic journals. You may use more. We will go over this essay, as well as writing strategies, in class.

Final Exam

A cumulative exam on the material covered during the course. Date and format will be discussed later in the academic year.

Participation

This is an easy one. 5% will be given based on attendance. The other 5% will be given based on your participation in class discussions. Students who come to class and are actively involved will do well.

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation is not required. Whenever possible students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, contact me within two business days.

Course Content

*NOTE: There may be an opportunity to see a production in Stratford (this is optional). We will be going to either *Hamlet* or *Richard III*. If we do attend *Hamlet*, the two plays will switch spots on the course calendar.

September 8	Introduction Course Syllabus reading	
September 13	An introduction to Shakespeare on the page and stage.	
September 15	Actors, Comedy, and Superstition <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	
September 20	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	
September 22	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	
September 27	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	
September 29	History and Tyranny* <i>Richard III</i>	
October 4	<i>Richard III</i>	
October 6	<i>Richard III</i>	CREATIVE ASSIGNMENT DUE
October 11	<i>Richard III</i>	
October 18	Love and Early Tragedy <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	

October 20 *Romeo and Juliet*

October 25 *Romeo and Juliet*

October 27 *Romeo and Juliet*

October 31 **READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

November 8 **Women on the Stage, Women on the Page**
Taming of the Shrew

November 10 *Taming of the Shrew*

November 15 *Taming of the Shrew*

November 17 *Taming of the Shrew*

November 22 **Roles and Rules Reversed**
Twelfth Night

SHORT ESSAY DUE

November 24 *Twelfth Night*

November 29 *Twelfth Night*

December 1 *Twelfth Night*

December 6 *Twelfth Night*

December 8 *Twelfth Night*

END OF FALL SEMESTER

January 10 **The Great Tragedy***
Hamlet

January 12 *Hamlet*

January 23 *Hamlet*

January 17 *Hamlet*

January 19 *Hamlet*

January 24 *Hamlet*

January 26	Memory and Nationalism <i>Henry V</i>	
January 31	<i>Henry V</i>	
February 2	<i>Henry V</i>	
February 7	<i>Henry V</i>	
February 9	Representations of Race <i>Othello</i>	
February 14	<i>Othello</i>	
February 16	<i>Othello</i>	
Feb 20 –	READING WEEK - NO CLASSES	
February 28	<i>Othello</i>	
March 2	<i>Othello</i>	
March 7	Madness and Masculinity <i>Macbeth</i>	
March 9	<i>Macbeth</i>	
March 14	<i>Macbeth</i>	
March 16	<i>Macbeth</i>	
March 21	<i>Macbeth</i>	SECOND ESSAY DUE
March 23	Imperialism and the “Brave new world” <i>The Tempest</i>	
March 28	<i>The Tempest</i>	
March 30	<i>The Tempest</i>	
April 4	<i>The Tempest</i>	

2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf;

2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor

(https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php).

If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar

(<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment.

Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an

Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere.

Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity

review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or

lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
