

**ENGLISH 4716 - Shakespeare in London**

Summer 2019

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**Description & Objectives**

- + This course is an experience-based exploration of the life & work of William Shakespeare from historical, textual, critical, & performance perspectives. Instruction will be bolstered by work with academic & theatre professionals & supplemented with practical experiences & field work including site visits, workshops, guest lectures, & live performances.
- + In this course you will...
  - + acquire & articulate a basic understanding of the historical context for Shakespeare & his plays
  - + develop & apply an awareness of the processes of Shakespearean textual production & reproduction
  - + master & utilize essential terms & techniques of Shakespearean criticism through an examination of its history
  - + undertake a study of the variety of Shakespearean performance both historically & in contemporary English culture that will prepare you for future explorations

**Texts & Materials**

- + course packet
- + digital camera
- + no more than six videos – to be assigned & provided by 1 June 2019
- + notebook & pen/pencil
- + playtext

**Assignments & Requirements**

- + *Participation* – As this is an experience-based course, students' participation & positive contribution are essential to successful completion of the class & an enjoyable/productive period in London. Prompt attendance, demonstrably positive attitude, proper decorum/sobriety, & material preparedness for all scheduled events are mandatory. **YOUR OVERALL COURSE GRADE WILL DROP ONE FULL LETTER FOR EACH SCHEDULED CLASS PERIOD YOU MISS ALL OR PART OF** (i.e. tardiness, after a 5 minute \*grace period,\* will count as a full missed class) **REGARDLESS OF EXCUSE**. The attendance policy is not negotiable. Scheduled events are listed in this course packet & will be announced in class—be sure to note **ANNOUNCED** changes in class, which will serve as the official class start time. **STUDENTS** are responsible for planning travel times accordingly (travel delays/poor directions will not mitigate tardiness or absence). Standards for attitude, decorum, & preparedness are outlined below under \*Policies & Practices\* &, like attendance, **WILL** affect students' **OVERALL** course grade as well as the discrete Participation element. Students in severe or repeated violation of attitude/decorum/preparedness policies will be given verbal warning prior to grade deductions if deductions are warranted. Standards for attendance/attitude/decorum/preparedness apply to all class events including travel to/from & the following:
  - + *Content Lectures* – Students will attend a series of lectures delivered by the course professor to contextualize class experiences. PowerPoint lectures will serve as the basis for class discussion & the final exam. Students are expected to take notes attentively.
  - + *Live Performances* – Students will attend several productions throughout the course of the term. Performances will serve as the basis for discussions & written responses.
  - + *Site Tours* – The class will visit & tour several sites & areas important to theatre history. Tours will serve as the basis for discussions & written responses.
- + *Informal Responses* – Students will develop & demonstrate their knowledge of Shakespearean terminology, history, criticism, & context via written considerations of class readings & participatory events.
  - + *Journal* – Students will be asked to engage with in-class reading then respond to lecture/reading material in a journal. Written response notebooks (& any notes from subsequent discussion) will be submitted for grading at the end of specified class periods.
  - + *Worksheets* – Students will be asked to complete worksheets related to live performances & site tours. Written worksheets will be collected following each event.

- + *Formal Reports* – Students will apply their knowledge & analyze Shakespearean artifacts encountered in the UK in written reports.
  - + *Edition* – Students will purchase an edition of a play for examination & evaluation. Each student will prepare a written report on their playtext & a short presentation that will form part of an in-class discussion.
  - + *Review* – Students will read reviews of one of the performances attended by the class to compare & contrast the perspectives of different reviewers. Each student will prepare a written report on their assigned reviews & a short presentation that will form part of an in-class discussion.
- + *In-Depth Projects* – Students will create & evaluate knowledge about Shakespeare in self-directed projects that synthesize their experiences.
  - + *Digital Project* – While in the UK, students will utilize digital resources to create an online archive documenting their London experience. Some posts will be stipulated & others left for students to select in their journeys around London. The digital project will be completed in stages, with a required number of visual posts & accompanying captions each week. Certain posts must include links to particular websites.
  - + *Research Project* – Upon return from the UK, students will complete a sourced research project relating to their London experience. Topics will be discussed with & approved by the professor prior to departure from London. The research project will be completed in stages, including preliminary bibliography/outline, rough draft, & final draft. The research paper & bibliography must conform to MLA writing & citation style (8<sup>th</sup> edition – 2016 update). Students who FAIL TO SUBMIT a research project WILL FAIL ALL SIX HOURS of credit for the course, without exception.
- + *In-Class Exams* – Students will prepare for & complete two written exams.
  - + *Preliminary Exam* – Students are required to view four filmed Shakespeare productions (listed above under texts & materials) BEFORE 9a on 9 July 2018. At the beginning of that class, students will complete a short exam on the plays & productions. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions & will receive further details about the exam in class on Saturday 7 July 2018.
  - + *Final Exam* – Students will complete one comprehensive exam on the final day of the term in London. The exam may include multiple choice, matching, short answer, identification, &/or essay components. Essay questions will be announced in advance & a study session will result in a study guide.

### Evaluation & Grading – 1000 points possible (+900 = A, +800 = B, +700 = C, +600 = D)

Participation* – 60 points	Journal – 50 points	Worksheets – 50 points
Edition Report – 150 points	Digital Project – 200 points	Preliminary Exam – 40 points
Review Report – 150 points	Research Project* – 200 points	Final Exam – 100 points

\* PLEASE note automatic penalties applied to overall class grade for failing to fulfill these assignments.

### Policies & Practices

- + *Syllabus Contract* – This syllabus constitutes an agreement between the student & the professor. Your continued enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to abide by the terms of this syllabus. If changes must be made to the schedule or to any aspect of this syllabus, all students will be notified as soon as possible & the professor will explain reasons for the changes. Changes will apply to all students.
- + *Course Content* – Courses on theatre deal with works of dramatic literature on the page & on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, & language of dramatic & theatrical works can be challenging:
  - + texts will make explicit reference to sensitive subjects including sexuality, gender, ethnicity, religion, politics, & socio-economic class
  - + performances may also include loud noises/strobes/fog, audience interaction, explicit or implicit violence & potentially offensive language &/or gesture.

You should expect that we will enter into debates in this class--& that those debates will take the form of respectful, academic discussions in which all evidence-based views will be respected & all debaters will be protected. If you have any questions or concerns about your participation or the tenor of these debates, please contact your professor.
- + *Late Work* – Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the announced date. Incomplete work is considered late work & will not be considered as submitted work until the assignment is complete. Assignments will lose one full letter grade each day they are late, regardless of excuse. Assignments submitted more than one week late will not be accepted.

- + *Make-Up Work* – Late or unsubmitted work can be made up only in the case of properly documented emergencies which have been approved by both the course professor & the director of the British Studies Program. Please contact the professor in case of emergency.
- + *Participation Standards*
  - + *Attitude* – As a student in an experiential course, your approach to class impacts not only your learning but also the learning environment & outcome for your fellow students. An open mind & full engagement with all course events is required. Tiredness, disinterest, unpreparedness, dislike, or personal issues within or outside of class will not constitute excuses for an indifferent or a poor attitude, particularly in the case of interactions with guests or off-site visits. A professional attitude towards activities & guests is essential to a successful outcome in class. Failure to project a professional attitude at least & an enthusiastic attitude at best will prove detrimental to your overall grade & may be grounds for dismissal from class &/or the British Studies Program.
  - + *Decorum* – As a study abroad student, you are a representative of your professor, the program & its administrators, your university, & your country. In all class meetings (including group travel to & from events), proper behavior & attire are essential. Expectations for each individual event will be outlined verbally, & in detail, prior to each event. Students are expected to turn off cell phones/tablets/MP3 players in class & computers may be used for class work only. Respectful interactions with your instructor, class guests, & fellow students—in & outside of class, including dorm facilities—are also essential to a successful outcome in class. Students are expected to refrain from excessive alcohol consumption before & during class meetings, including performances. Failure to adhere to these expectations will prove detrimental to your overall grade & may be grounds for dismissal from the class &/or the British Studies Program.
  - + *Preparedness* – As a student in an experiential course, your punctuality & preparation impacts the learning environment & outcome for your fellow students. Timely arrival for all scheduled activities & compliance with assigned preparations (including being properly attired, being ably equipped to travel, & coming ready with food &/or money to procure food on outings) are essential for positive outcomes. Failure to adhere to announced expectations will prove detrimental to your overall grade & repeated infractions may be grounds for dismissal from the class &/or the British Studies Program.
- + *Student Revisions* – Students may revise any work completed outside of class (with the exception of the Digital & Research Projects) provided that the original submission is submitted on time & complete by its original due date. If students wish to revise, they must complete a revision worksheet & discuss the proposed revision with the professor prior to submitting the revised work. Details of revision procedures are contained within this course packet.
- + *Grade Challenges* – Any concerns regarding grades or grading (including Participation penalties) must be submitted in writing no later than one week after the assignment has been returned to the student or the penalty has accrued. Concerns must be clearly stated with justifications as to the source of the concern. If disputes remain unresolved following a meeting with the professor, the student will be given an opportunity to address concerns with the director of the British Studies Program.
- + *Incomplete Grades* – Incompletes will only be given in the case of emergencies documented & approved by both the course professor & the director of the British Studies Program. Please contact the professor in case of an emergency.
- + *Academic Misconduct* – Cheating in all forms is strictly prohibited. All parties involved in the submission of plagiarized or copied work will be found equally guilty of academic misconduct under all circumstances, be they intended or unintended. It is the responsibility of the student to know, understand, & comply with the policies on cheating & plagiarism. Penalties for cheating & plagiarism include failing the assignment, failing the course, &/or expulsion from the British Studies Program.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS – <i>participation is physical &amp; mental</i>	
What will your instructor do to help you achieve an optimal outcome?	What do you need to do to achieve an optimal outcome?
keep all students informed of meeting times & places through frequent reminders in class & online	arrive on time for all class meetings at the correct location & with the required assignments/materials
advise students in advance regarding standards of decorum/preparation for events	attend all class events properly attired/prepared & proceed to conform to standards of decorum for the event
<p>offer background information &amp; follow up material to aid preparation for &amp; assimilation of course experiences</p> <p>+ be clear about when class is in session – provide suitable breaks during long class periods</p> <p>+ keep an open ear – allow for &amp; adjust to student feedback regarding needs &amp; desires for the class</p>	<p>engage attentively with all speakers, tours, workshops, lectures, performances, &amp; events</p> <p>+ turn off cell phones &amp; MP3 players &amp; refrain from non-class work on computers – stay focused on class</p> <p>+ keep an open mind – participate fully &amp; with a visibly positive attitude</p>
respect all points of view & ensure that opportunities for participation are enjoyed equally by all students	respond productively in writing to prompts & verbally in discussions
treat all students with courtesy & respect	treat yourself, your classmates, & your professor with courtesy & respect

