

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
ENGL 145: Shakespeare and Performance

Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Adrienne Eastwood
Office Location:	FOB 116
Telephone:	(408) 924-4509
Email:	Adrienne.Eastwood@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00 noon- 1:15 p.m., Mondays, 3:00-4:00 p.m., and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall 348
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing

Course Format

Lecture/Discussion

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page www.sjsu.edu/faculty/eastwood. I will also publish the course and assignments on Canvas.

Course Description

This course examines in depth several of Shakespeare's plays, specifically addressing issues of performance. We will discuss each play in the context of its original performance during Shakespeare's time and its life on stage and screen in the ensuing centuries. Paying particular attention to modern productions, we will analyze the ways in which production elements such as setting, casting, staging, costuming, editing, and individual performances shape and create meaning (or fail to do so) for the audiences of today. Placing these plays within this context of performance will raise larger issues about the complex relationships between the Shakespearean canon and its ever changing audiences. Students will respond to each Shakespearean play text through both writing and oral interpretation, integrating speech and dramatic performance with an understanding of the complexities of plot, characterization, and dramatic form.

Course Learning Objectives:

- ❖ Explore several of Shakespeare's plays both in textual form and through performance both on stage and screen.
- ❖ Demonstrate basic knowledge of the language of visual composition and principles of theatrical design (e.g., set design, costume, lighting, sound, props)
- ❖ Evaluate and deliver oral performance in a variety of forms
- ❖ Learn and apply the fundamentals of stage directing, including conceptualization, blocking (movement patterns), tempo, and dramatic arc (rising and falling action)
- ❖ Analyze and evaluate contemporary productions of the plays and assess their social impact
- ❖ Participate in and evaluate dramatic performances
- ❖ Employ basic elements of character analysis and approaches to acting, including physical and vocal techniques that reveal characterizations and relationships
- ❖ Demonstrate and evaluate individual performance skills (e.g., diction, enunciation, vocal rate, range, pitch, volume, body language, eye contact, and response to audience)

Important Caveat: Although you are being asked to consider Shakespeare from the perspective of an actor or director, you are not being graded on your ability to act or direct! You are being graded on your level of engagement with the plays themselves

Course Learning Outcomes

The primary goals of this course are to introduce you to several of Shakespeare's major works, and to encourage you to begin to imagine what life must have been like for Shakespeare and his audiences, as well as to get a sense of the enormous impact the professional theater had on Elizabethan culture. You will also gain from this course a general understanding of dramatic form (comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances), and a reading competence in Elizabethan English. Finally, I would like you to acquire an appreciation for the range of choices involved in performing—and therefore interpreting—a Shakespearean play.

Student Learning Outcomes (LO1-5)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric (Familiarity with dramatic forms through reading, lecture, and discussion—assessed by participation grade.)
- 2) Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British literature (Midterm and Final Exam)
- 3) Write clearly, effectively, and creatively (Essays)
- 4) Develop and carry out research projects (Production Analysis)
- 5) Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts (Lectures, Midterm, Final, and Essays—assessed by final grade.)

This course serves the department's Student Learning Objectives 1 and 2 (LO1 and LO2) by introducing you to Shakespearean poetry and drama (i.e., British Literature). Students read closely throughout the course and will have ample opportunity to discuss and write about what they learn. Success in LO1 and LO2 will be measured by the final grade in the course.

Students are asked to write several essays for this course (a total of at least 5,000 words) including one research assignment; this clearly serves Learning Objectives 3 and 4 (LO3 and LO4). Assessment of student success in LO3 and LO4 will be measured by their grades on these essays.

All of my classes are discussion based. Students are asked to come to class prepared to talk about the material they read, and my lectures aim to help students to realize the relations among culture, history, and the texts we

read. The ability to articulate the relationships listed in Learning Objective 5 (LO5) is measured by the students' participation grade in the course.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

The Norton Shakespeare Volume 3. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean Howard, Katherine Eisaman Maus, Gordon McMullan, and Suzanne Gossett. ISBN: 978-0-393-93499-1.

MLA Guidelines available here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Other Requirements

Film Viewing: There are several films (indicated on the schedule below) that you are required to view for this class. Unfortunately, there is not enough time to screen these during class; therefore, you are required to view these films as homework. These movies are widely available on Netflix and other streaming sites. If you are unable to find a movie, you may borrow the DVD from me. After viewing a required film, you must write up a short review of the production. Instructions for reviews are posted on my website at www.sjsu.edu/faculty/eastwood.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation: Because a large portion of this course involves discussion, workshops, and oral performances, regular attendance and active participation are imperative. Students will be expected to discuss the plays in detail, and to deliver and evaluate a variety of performances.

Participation also includes bringing your book to class and following along as directed. In other words, OPEN your book. Maintain proper posture and a polite demeanor: this means appearing awake and conscious while in class.

Oral Interpretation: In addition to regular performance exercises, each student will be asked to memorize and deliver a monologue (of at least 20 lines) to the class. These will be scheduled throughout the semester. A sign-up sheet will be distributed for you to select a time for your performance. Rescheduling will not be permitted.

Written Work: You will be asked to write two formal essays (1,500 words each) for this class. The first essay will require you to compare one aspect of at least two different film or stage versions of a play we will be reading for this class. The second essay will involve a more detailed analysis of some aspect of Shakespeare's plays. Prompts will be distributed for both essays in advance. Your success on these papers will be directly proportional to your knowledge and understanding of the texts.

Film Reviews: You will also be required to write reviews (1,000 words each) of some of the required films. The reviews will ask you to evaluate the production against your knowledge of the play itself. Detailed instructions will be distributed in advance of the first assignment.

Late Papers: Turning in assignments late is unfair to the other students and to me; therefore, I will lower your grade one full letter for each day the paper is late. In the case of emergencies, please see me. Papers are due at the beginning of class. If I do not receive your paper by 9:15 a.m., I will consider it late.

I do not accept emailed assignments under any circumstances.

Final Project: By way of a final project, I would like you to respond creatively to one of Shakespeare's plays or to an important scene in one of the plays. You might decide to "produce" a version of an important scene for yourselves and then provide a written rationale of your production. Consider your creative options wide open. One approach could be to choose a small cast and act the scene for the class; however, depending on your talents and interests, you might wish to approach this project differently, choosing instead to film a scene on video, do an audio production, or respond to the scene in some other way. For example, you might draw a cartoon version of a scene, or write an "updated" version. Since many of you will be going on to teach Shakespeare in high schools, you might choose to write a lesson plan for a unit on Shakespeare. Further instructions will be distributed later in the semester, but keep this requirement in mind as you read through the material.

Final Examination or Evaluation

A final exam will be given in class at the end of the semester involving close reading and identification of Shakespeare's text and an essay component.

Grading Information

Specify your grading policy here. Provide rubrics and explain how grades are assessed and assigned. Allow multiple opportunities to give feedback on student learning. Use rubrics or examples to explain and show students how they can assess themselves or check their own learning. More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)
- [University policy F15-12 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf)

Determination of Grades

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation: (discussion & performances) 10%

Soliloquy: 5%

Essay 1: 15 %

Essay 2: 15%

Film Reviews: 15%

Final Project: 20 %

Final Exam: 20 %

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, you must complete all of the above assignments.

In ALL assignments, students will be graded on the depth of their knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare's works.

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined by the SJSU Catalog (Grades-Letter Grading).

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A+/A/A- = excellent; B+/B/B- = above average; C+/C/C- = average; D+/D/D- = below average; F = failure. Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a + or - grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Classroom Protocol

Course Requirements: Have the plays and supplementary materials read in full by the time we begin to discuss them in class. Regular attendance and active class participation are encouraged.

I reserve the right to assign quizzes and written assignments throughout the semester.

Cell phones, laptops, e-readers, and other devices will remain turned off and put away for the duration of the class period unless otherwise instructed by me.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

If applicable, include links to department and college-level policies, requirements and services.

ENGL 145 Reading Schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/30	Introductions
1	2/1	<i>Playing Shakespeare</i> (John Barton – video)
2	2/6	Shakespeare's Life and Times (Read the introductory material in your anthologies)
2	2/8	Crash Course on the Sonnet
Required Viewing: <i>Romeo + Juliet</i> , dir. Baz Luhrman. Review due 2/22 Recommended Viewing: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , dir. F. Zefferelli		
4	2/13	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
4	2/15	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
5	2/20	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> -
5	2/22	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Prompts for Essay 1) FILM REVIEW DUE for <i>Romeo + Juliet</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	2/27	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
6	3/1	<i>Merchant of Venice</i>
Required viewing: <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , dir. M. Radford, (with Al Pacino). Review due 3/13		
7	3/6	<i>Merchant of Venice</i> – ESSAY 1 DUE
7	3/8	<i>Merchant of Venice</i>
8	3/13	<i>Richard III</i> --- FILM REVIEW on <i>Merchant of Venice</i> DUE
8	3/15	<i>Richard III</i>
Recommended Viewing: <i>Richard III</i> , Dir. Richard Loncraine with Ian McKellen		
9	3/20	<i>Twelfth Night</i> (Prompts for Essay 2 Distributed)
9	3/22	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
Recommended Viewing: <i>Twelfth Night</i> . Dir. Trevor Nunn, with Helena Bonham Carter and Ben Kingsley.		
		SPRING BREAK 3/27-3/31
11	4/3	<i>Hamlet</i> – ESSAY 2 DUE
11	4/5	<i>Hamlet</i>
Required viewing: <i>Hamlet</i> Dir. M. Almereyda, with Ethan Hawke. Review due 4/19		
Recommended viewing: <i>Hamlet</i> . Dir. K. Branagh.		
12	4/10	NO CLASS
12	4/12	<i>Hamlet</i>
13	4/17	<i>Henry V</i>
13	4/19	<i>Henry V</i> - FILM REVIEW OF <i>Hamlet</i> DUE
14	4/24	SCREEN <i>Henry V</i> (version TBD)
14	4/26	SCREEN <i>Henry V</i>
15	5/1	<i>Othello</i>
15	5/3	<i>Othello</i>
Recommended viewing: <i>Othello</i> . Dir. Parker, with Lawrence Fishburne		
16	5/8	<i>The Tempest</i>
16	5/10	<i>The Tempest</i>
17	5/15	LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION – FINAL PROJECTS DUE
Final Exam	5/22 7:15. – 9:30 a.m.	Bring Blue Books