

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Shakespeare Elective: Comedies

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s):

The Comedy of Errors
The Merchant of Venice
The Taming of the Shrew
The Tempest
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Course Description:

In this course, students will read through a selection of some of Shakespeare's most popular and enduring comedies. They will read and discuss the plays, answering and asking questions about the characters, plot, setting, style, and language of the works, as well as the distinctive features of his comedies as a genre. In addition, selected passages will be available for dramatic readings in class. They will consider Shakespeare within the context of his own time, examine the influences and sources Shakespeare drew from, and observe the legacy of these plays down to our own time. The course will focus on appreciating and enjoying the humor, depth, and influence of Shakespeare, while encouraging the students to explore the characters, themes, and cultural influence of the plays.

Assignments:

- *Short Papers:* These are short papers (2-4 pages, or 500-1000 words) designed to get students thinking about and reacting to what they read. Students will choose from a range of supplied topics. 20% each (40% total)
- *Quizzes:* These are weekly quizzes on the reading, intended to show that the student has finished and understood the assignments. 30%
- *Final Paper:* Students will write one longer paper (4-6 pages, or 1000-1500 words), exploring in detail the literary techniques and meaning of a chosen play. This paper is worth 30%.

Example schedule:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Week 1 | Intro & Overview | |
| Weeks 2-4 | Comedy of Errors | Small Paper #1 |
| Weeks 5-7 | Merchant of Venice | |
| Weeks 8-10 | Taming of the Shrew | Small Paper #2 |
| Weeks 11-13 | The Tempest | |
| Weeks 14-16 | Midsummer Night's Dream | Final Paper |

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Shakespeare Elective: English Histories

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s):

Richard II
Henry IV Parts 1 & 2
Henry V
Richard III

Course Description:

In this course, students will examine Shakespeare's English tetralogy, the "Henriad." They will read and discuss the plays, answering and asking questions about the characters, plot, setting, style, and language of the works, as well as the distinctive features of his histories as a genre. In addition, selected passages will be used for dramatic readings in class. Students will consider Shakespeare within the context of his own time, examine the influences and sources Shakespeare drew from, and observe the legacy of these plays down to our own time. The course will focus on appreciating the depth and reach of Shakespeare, while encouraging the students to explore the characters, themes, and cultural influence of the plays.

Assignments:

Papers: 2 for the semester. These are short papers (2-4 pages, or 500-1000 words) designed to get students thinking about and reacting to what they read. Students will choose from a range of supplied topics.

Quizzes: These are weekly quizzes on the reading, intended to show that the student has finished and understood the assignments.

Discussion Posts: Students will be given a topic to focus on each week, and will write an original response to the reading/topic on that week's Discussion Board in Blackboard.

Final Exam: Students will complete a final exam that will include short answer and essay questions.

Grading Breakdown:

Quizzes: 20%
Discussion Posts: 20%
Papers: 30% (15% each)
Final Exam: 30%

Schedule:

This schedule is subject to frequent updates. Please see Blackboard/email for changes.

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| Week 1 | Intro & Overview |
| Weeks 2-4 | King Lear |
| Paper #1 | |
| Weeks 5-7 | Romeo and Juliet |
| Weeks 8-10 | Othello |
| Paper #2 | |
| Weeks 11-13 | Antony and Cleopatra |
| Weeks 14-16 | Macbeth |
| Final Exam | |

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Shakespeare Elective: Tragedies

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s):

Macbeth
King Lear
Othello
Romeo and Juliet
Antony and Cleopatra

Course Description:

In this course, students will examine some of Shakespeare's most popular and enduring tragedies. They will read and discuss the plays, answering and asking questions about the characters, plot, setting, style, and language of the works, as well as the distinctive features of his tragedies as a genre. In addition, selected passages will be used for dramatic readings in class. Students will consider Shakespeare within the context of his own time, examine the influences and sources Shakespeare drew from, and observe the legacy of these plays down to our own time. The course will focus on appreciating the depth and reach of Shakespeare, while encouraging the students to explore the characters, themes, and cultural influence of the plays.

Assignments:

Papers: 2 for the semester. These are short papers (2-4 pages, or 500-1000 words) designed to get students thinking about and reacting to what they read. Students will choose from a range of supplied topics.

Quizzes: These are weekly quizzes on the reading, intended to show that the student has finished and understood the assignments.

Discussion Posts: Students will be given a topic to focus on each week, and will write an original response to the reading/topic on that week's Discussion Board in Blackboard.

Final Exam: Students will complete a final exam that will include short answer and essay questions.

Grading Breakdown:

Quizzes: 20%

Discussion Posts: 20%

Papers: 30% (15% each)

Final Exam: 30%

Schedule:

This schedule is subject to frequent updates. Please see Blackboard/email for changes.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Week 1 | Intro & Overview |
| Weeks 2-4 | King Lear |
| Paper #1 | |
| Weeks 5-7 | Romeo and Juliet |
| Weeks 8-10 | Othello |
| Paper #2 | |
| Weeks 11-13 | Antony and Cleopatra |
| Weeks 14-16 | Macbeth |
| Final Exam | |