JEFFERSON COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS

ENG235
THE SHAKESPEARE PLAYS
3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
John Buschard

Revised By: Trish Loomis
Revised Date: February 2010

Arts and Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
ENG235  The Shakespeare Plays

I.  CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

   A.  Prerequisite: none

   B.  3 semester credit hours

   C.  This course examines selected works of Shakespeare as they reveal the world of
       Elizabethan and Jacobean England and Shakespeare's mastery of dramatic
       technique. Students will view selected film versions as they read and study
       representative plays. The Shakespeare Plays will partially fulfill the humanities
       requirement for an associate degree. (D)

II.  EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students will demonstrate understanding of selected works of William Shakespeare.</td>
<td>Article Summaries</td>
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<td>Analytical paper</td>
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<td>Class discussion</td>
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<td>Written Examination</td>
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<td>Collaborative group activity</td>
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<td>Students will demonstrate an awareness of appropriate vocabulary for informed discussion and analysis of plays.</td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
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<td>Collaborative group activity</td>
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<td>Written Examination</td>
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<td>Students will demonstrate an awareness of historical background and perspective.</td>
<td>Small Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Written Examination</td>
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<td>Small background reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will analyze and explain commentary on several different Shakespearian plays, including at least one comedy, one tragedy, and one history play.</td>
<td>Article summaries</td>
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<td>Analytical paper</td>
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<td>Written Examination</td>
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<td>Students will integrate information as they read, evaluate and interpret a play.</td>
<td>Small group presentation</td>
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<td>Analytical paper</td>
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<td>Class Discussion</td>
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III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

A. Background
   1. Explain Shakespeare’s background
   2. Describe the historical and social milieu of Elizabethan and Jacobean England.
   3. Discuss theatrical conventions and typical playhouses of the period.
   4. Explain folio and quarto publication; pirating of scripts.

B. The Taming of the Shrew
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Discuss folktale origins and differences.
   3. Discuss framing tale and parallel structures.
   4. Discuss changes in modern productions of play.

C. A Midsummer Night’s Dream
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Discuss fairy lore of England and differences in Shakespeare.
   3. Analyze the play in terms of comic devices, structure, and character.

D. Much Ado about Nothing
   1. Read and view the play.
   2. Identify similarities and differences between the play and the video.
   3. Explain high-brow and low-brow comedy; examine parallel meanings in main plot, subplot, and farce (Dogberry).
   4. Discuss characterization and themes.

E. Richard III
   1. Explain Shakespeare’s treatment of English history in his œuvre.
   2. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   3. Analyze Richard in historical perspective.
   4. Identify examples of monologue, soliloquy and "asides."

F. Henry IV
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Examine the parallel plots, one comic and one serious, represented by Falstaff and the Boar’s Head Tavern and by King Henry and the court at Westminster.
   3. Discuss the making-of-a-king bildungsroman theme.

G. Henry V
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Explain the Tudor political philosophy and the Tudor myth.
   3. Identify examples from the play that make Henry the ideal Christian King.
H.  *Othello*
   1. Read and view the play.
   2. Discuss the conventions of tragedy in *Othello*.
   3. Discuss the historical reactions to this play.
   4. Discuss the role of revenge in the plot.

I.  *King Lear*
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Discuss the conventions of tragedy in *King Lear*.
   3. Discuss the role of nature and the natural world in the play.

J.  *Antony and Cleopatra*
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Explain actual historical events upon which play is based.
   3. Discuss the conventions of tragedy in the play.
   4. Examine the dual themes of duty versus pleasure and illusion versus reality.

K.  *Cymbeline*
   1. Read the play; view selected scenes.
   2. Discuss Shakespeare’s romance genre and the problem plays.
   3. Examine the folktale origins of parts of play.

IV.  METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
   A.  Reading/Viewing Plays
   B.  Instructor Lectures
   C.  Classroom Discussion

V.  REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (with publication information)
   Blakemore Evans, ed. *The Riverside Shakespeare*, 2nd edition. (Recommended)
   Or, any edition of selected plays.

IV.  REQUIRED MATERIALS
   None

V.  SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS
   Video versions; notes on BLACKBOARD; internet links; study guides
VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Five Completed Study Guides
B. One Exam
C. One Essay
D. Scene Interpretation/Recitation
E. Participation

The grading scale is as follows:

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 - 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 60 - 69 = D
- Below 60 = F

IX. ADA STATEMENT

Any statement requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-797-3000, ext. 169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College website).