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Plainview Campus

School of Languages and Literature **Note: This is a draft. The final syllabus may contain changes.**

**Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

# Course Information

**Course Number and Name:** ENGL 4303 VC01 -- Shakespeare

**Term and Year:** Fall 2 2021

**Name of Instructor:** Dr. Steven Michael

**Phone and WBU Email Address:** 806-774-2091 / [steven.michael@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:steven.michael@wayland.wbu.edu) (I can best be reached by email)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** I work from home. Office hours are 8:30-9:00 AM, Monday-Friday.

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** online, through Blackboard

**Catalog Description:** A study of the works of Shakespeare, with special emphasis on the major plays.

**Prerequisite:** advanced standing

# Required Textbook and Resources:

Required Textbook:

This syllabus provides [links to free internet versions](#_Links_to_Web) of Shakespeare's works. You may use your own printed or online versions if you prefer, but you must use complete editions of the plays, not summaries, study aids, "graphic novels," or other shortcuts. Movies are not a substitute for reading plays.

Required Resources:

You will need a reliable and secure computer connection, as well as access to Microsoft Word; software capable of reading documents produced in .html and .pdf formats; a way to back up your work in progress, such as OneDrive or a flash drive.

The course will take place entirely online. You must have a functional Blackboard account and be able to access the WBU library website, as well as articles and other material provided through proprietary databases available via the WBU library website. You also must have an active WBU email address, and you need to check it every day. Your WBU email address is the usual way that I will contact you. You are strongly encouraged to visit the Blackboard login page and [test your computer](https://wbu.techready.io/) for Blackboard compatibility, as well as take the [Blackboard Tutorial](https://www.wbu.edu/wbu-online/blackboard-tutorials.htm) if you are not familiar with how the service works. If you have problems with Blackboard or your WBU email, please use the WBU Support Contacts available on the Blackboard login page.

Optional Materials:

Advanced students in English are encouraged to acquire a copy of the *MLA Handbook*, 8th or later edition.

# Course and University Policies

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to (1) read and interpret the dramas intelligently and evaluate them critically; (2) explain the basics of the cultural and historical context in which the dramas were written; (3) perceive (beyond the plot) themes and dramatic devices that make Shakespeare, Shakespeare; (4) produce in style and content essays and/or oral presentations appropriate for upper-level students of English; and (5) conduct research on topic related to Shakespeare’s dramas, articulate and support a thesis, and follow through with appropriate documentation. The more the student puts into the course, the higher his or her outcome competencies will be.

**Attendance Requirements / Decorum and Make-up Policies:** Students are expected to participate in the class and demonstrate regular attendance. This applies without exception. Participation and attendance will be determined by timely completion of message board discussions and quizzes. When a student shows a lack of participation/attendance considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student. Any student whose non-attendance/non-participation reaches 25 percent will receive a grade of F in the course. Students are required to have computer and Internet access for the course. Additional participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University’s attendance policy. Make-up opportunities usually will not be offered and will be considered only in extremely compelling situations. Any authorized make-ups must be completed within the time limit set by the instructor; otherwise, the make-up grade will be zero. For additional information, see "[Late Work and Incompletes](#Late_Work)" below.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Disability Statement:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

# Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

Outcome competencies will be assessed in the following ways: quizzes, Blackboard participation, a comparison paper, a research paper, and a final examination. **You are expected to save your work to your hard drive in Microsoft Word format, then upload it to the appropriate assignment destination in Blackboard. If you use Apple Pages or some other non-Microsoft word processor, you will need to save or export your document as a Word file prior to submission. Online storage services, such as iCloud, sometimes have compatibility issues with Blackboard; therefore, avoid "sideloading" assignments directly from such services. If I can't load and read your submissions, I won't grade them. All written assignments must be submitted in electronic form through Blackboard on their due dates. Late work will be penalized 10 points per 24-hour period and will not be accepted after the third 24-hour period.**

## Comparison Paper

Examine some concern that the plays *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* have in common. In an essay of 3-5 typewritten, double-spaced pages, show your reader how the work (or works) deal with this concern. Let your essay be guided by a single controlling idea, something that you want to teach your audience regarding this thematic or compositional issue. What can you point out that a casual reader might not immediately notice or understand? Possible topics include the following:

* a comparison of powerful women in *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*, e.g., Gertrude vs. Lady Macbeth
* a comparison of how tragedy functions in Hamlet and Macbeth
* a study of ambition and its consequences in *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*, e.g., Claudius vs. Macbeth

The essay will be evaluated according to the following criteria: (1) control and responsible development of discussion; (2) presentation of ideas and wording as evidence; (3) analysis of, and ability to draw conclusions from, this evidence; (4) clarity and polish of writing; (5) proper use of MLA documentation style.

Be sure to offer paraphrased and quoted evidence from the works to substantiate your findings. Do not use outside sources; I want to see how well you understand what's going on in the primary work. You are required to use MLA documentation style. See the *MLA Handbook*, 8th or later edition, or the MLA links provided with the [Research Paper Assignment](#Research_Paper_Assignment) below.

The paper is due on Blackboard no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 7. Students are at all times responsible for their materials and are required to keep copies of their work in progress. See the paragraph on "[Late Work and Incompletes](#Late_Work)" below. Please email me or post in the Help Forum if you would like to discuss this project.

## Research Paper

In a carefully researched, responsibly developed, and clearly written discussion, argue your position on some artistic or social issue one or more of the works assigned for reading this term. This is an argumentative paper. "Argumentative" does not necessarily mean that you are disagreeing with someone. It means that you are attempting to show that you are right about something that has not already been established as a fact. You want to convince your audience that something is true by using reason and evidence. Whatever you decide to write about, be sure to begin your research early and email me if you'd like to talk about your topic.

The Research Paper must meet the following requirements:

* **Length** -- a minimum of 6 double-spaced word-processed pages
* **Source Requirements** -- You must use at least 6 secondary sources. "Secondary" means sources that somehow comment on -- and are outside of -- the poem(s) you are discussing. The work(s) you are writing about do not count as secondary sources. **You are encouraged to locate quality academic materials found by using appropriate databases, such as the *MLA International Bibliography*. You must have at least two articles from academic journals. Do not use reviews or study aids, such as *SparkNotes* or websites like *GradeSaver*. Do not use more than one non-literary item, such as psychology articles on deviant behavior.** Contact me if you have questions about these requirements.
* **Presentation of Evidence** -- You must cite and analyze evidence from your sources. The object of citation is not to "throw in" evidence but to use it and comment on it when you need to support one of your own points. Be sure to analyze quoted evidence from the literary work itself, not just your secondary sources.
* **Documentation** -- You must use MLA documentation style. The most authoritative guide is the *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition, which every English major should have. (Note: Since the 9th edition is still so new, you may use the 8th edition in this course if you prefer.) If you don't have the MLA text, see the following websites for assistance:

[OWL Purdue MLA Formatting and Style Guide](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)

[Using MLA Format](https://style.mla.org/mla-format/)

* **Due Date** -- The paper is due on Blackboard no later than 11:59 P.M. on December 5. Make arrangements at the beginning of the course for handling emergency situations.

**How I Will Grade** -- The essay will be evaluated in light of the following criteria: (1) control and responsible development of discussion; (2) presentation of evidence from the work(s) under discussion as well as from secondary sources (let me know that you understand how to use summary, paraphrase, and quotation properly); (3) analysis of, and ability to draw conclusions from, this evidence; (4) clarity and polish of writing; (5) proper use of MLA documentation style.

Students are at all times responsible for their materials and are required to keep copies of their work in progress. Please contact me if you need assistance or clarification.

## Quizzes

Each week, you should expect a quiz over the reading assignments and/or class topics. The format of the quizzes usually will be objective-answer, although some quizzes may appear as questions that invite brief written interpretive/critical responses. Quizzes will have expiration dates and times, after which they will no longer be available. Except in extremely compelling circumstances, I will not offer early or make-up opportunities. Objective-answer quizzes will be evaluated for reading comprehension. Any response quizzes will be evaluated for ability to organize and focus ideas, and ability to present ideas clearly and elegantly.

## Blackboard Participation

Each week, I will present at least one topic for discussion on the Blackboard forum for this course. You are expected to participate helpfully and meaningfully in each discussion. You may be asked to read outside articles in preparation for these discussions. Please be sure that you can access the proprietary databases, such as JSTOR, in the "[Articles & Databases](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/library/articles-and-databases.htm)" area of the WBU library website in order to view these articles.

## Final Exam

The final exam will be in essay-question form and will be evaluated according to the following criteria: (1) how well you know the content of the reading assignments, lectures, discussions, and any pertinent supplementary material; and (2) how well you organize, develop, and express your thoughts. The exam will be comprehensive, and there will be no make-up for it. Students are expected to arrange well in advance to take the final exam during the last week of the course. You will not need a proctor for the exam.

# Grading and Help

## Grade Distribution (how much grades count):

My grading scale is as follows: 90-92/A-, 93-97/A, 98-100/A+; and so forth. Anything below 60 is an F. Weighted grades are averaged according to a 100-point scale and are totaled at the end of the semester. If your total is 79.49, your course grade is a C. If your total is 79.50, your course grade is a B. If you need help, please visit or email me.

| Assignment | Grade Percentage |
| --- | --- |
| Blackboard Participation | 15% |
| Quiz Average | 15% |
| Comparison Paper | 15% |
| Research Paper | 25% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

**Note:** Completion of quizzes and taking part in discussion forum topics constitute attendance and participation in the course. If your failure to attend/participate reaches a threshold of 25%, your grade in the course will be an F (see "[Attendance Requirements/Decorum and Make-up Policies](#Attendance)" above).

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Late Work and Incompletes:** All work, including essays, message board responses, quizzes, exams, and other activities, will have due dates. These due dates will be indicated in Lesson and Announcement notifications. Failure to complete quizzes or participate in discussion forum topics by their due dates will result in grades of 0/F. Failure to submit major writing assignments on time will result in the reduction of your grade for that work by 10 points per 24-hour period following the due date. For example, if a writing assignment is due by 11:59 P.M. CST (Central Standard Time) on November 1, you will be counted off 10 points if I don't have your work by 11:59 P.M. CST on November 2. You will be counted off 20 points after 11:59 P.M. CST on November 3. After three late periods, the work will no longer be accepted. Except in extremely compelling cases, no make-up opportunities for discussions or exercises will be offered. No make-up opportunities or extended time will be offered for the Research Essay assignment or the final exam. Make-up opportunities for lengthy absences (a week or longer) will not be offered except in extremely compelling cases (e.g., sudden hospital situations). You should not plan vacations or other extended absences during online courses. Military personnel who think they may have to be gone on extended TDY's should arrange for computer and internet access during that time. Grades of Incomplete (I) will not be considered. Please contact me early if you're having trouble getting something in so that I can assist you properly.

**Course Outline:** This offering of ENGL 4303 will introduce students to selected plays of William Shakespeare. We will begin by discussing the course requirements and acclimating ourselves to the social and artistic dynamics of Shakespeare's world. Then we will examine two of his tragedies, two of his histories, and end with two of his comedies. The course will not attempt to follow Shakespeare's career chronologically but will, instead, analyze his works from generic and thematic perspectives. See "[Schedule for ENGL 4303](#_Schedule_for_English)" in this syllabus for details and a calendar of daily topics / readings / assignments. *(NB: examples, ideas, opinions, and theories presented during class meetings do not necessarily reflect the views of the instructor. Furthermore, this syllabus is a plan. Although no significant changes are anticipated, the instructor may modify the plan during the course. The requirements of the course may be altered from those appearing in the syllabus. Finally, the plan contains criteria by which the student's progress and performance in the course will be measured. These criteria may also be changed.)*

# Schedule for English 4303

Class members are responsible for keeping up with the following schedule. On the following page, links are provided to web versions of Shakespeare's plays. You may use your own printed or online versions if you prefer, but you must use complete editions of the plays, not summaries, study aids, "graphic novels," or other shortcuts. Movies are not a substitute for reading plays. This is a working schedule and may be altered at the instructor's discretion, although departures are unlikely. Students will be notified of any changes on Blackboard.

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Week 1 (beginning Oct. 11): Introduction to Shakespeare

Week 2 (beginning Oct. 18): Introduction to Shakespearean Tragedy • *Hamlet*

Week 3 (beginning Oct. 25): *Macbeth*

Week 4 (beginning Nov. 1): Introduction to Shakespearean History • *1 Henry IV* • **Comparison Paper Due**

Week 5 (beginning Nov. 8): *Henry V* • Nov. 12 is last day to drop or withdraw with "W"

Week 6 (beginning Nov. 15): Introduction to Shakespearean Comedy • *A Midsummer Night's Dream* • Nov. 19 is last day to drop or withdraw with "WP/WF"

Thanksgiving Break

Week 7 (beginning Nov. 29): *The Taming of the Shrew* • **Research Paper Due**

Week 8 (beginning Dec. 6): **Final Exam**

# Links to Web Versions of Shakespeare's Plays

## Tragedies

Hamlet

[Folger Shakespeare](https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/hamlet/)

[The Complete Works of Shakespeare](https://www.thecompleteworksofshakespeare.com/tragedy/hamlet)

[MIT](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/index.html)

Macbeth

[Folger Shakespeare](https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/macbeth/)

[The Complete Works of Shakespeare](https://www.thecompleteworksofshakespeare.com/tragedy/macbeth)

[MIT](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/index.html)

## Histories

1 Henry IV

[Folger Shakespeare](https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/henry-iv-part-1/)

[The Complete Works of Shakespeare](https://www.thecompleteworksofshakespeare.com/history/king-henry-iv-part-i)

[MIT](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/1henryiv/index.html)

Henry V

[Folger Shakespeare](https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/henry-v/)

[The Complete Works of Shakespeare](https://www.thecompleteworksofshakespeare.com/history/henry-v)

[MIT](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/henryv/index.html)

## Comedies

A Midsummer Night's Dream

[Folger Shakespeare](https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/a-midsummer-nights-dream/)

[The Complete Works of Shakespeare](https://www.thecompleteworksofshakespeare.com/comedy/a-midsummer-nights-dream)

[MIT](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/midsummer/index.html)

The Taming of the Shrew

[Folger Shakespeare](https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/the-taming-of-the-shrew/)

[The Complete Works of Shakespeare](https://www.thecompleteworksofshakespeare.com/comedy/the-taming-of-the-shrew)

[MIT](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/taming_shrew/index.html)

# SUGGESTED READING

## General Interest

Bevington, David M. *How to Read a Shakespeare Play* (2006)

Kermode, Frank, *The Age of Shakespeare* (2004)

Korda, Natasha, *Shakespeare's Domestic Economies: Gender and Property in Early Modern England* (2002)

Rackin, Phyllis, *Shakespeare and Women* (2005)

Taylor, Michael, *Shakespeare Criticism in the Twentieth Century* (2001)

## Tragedies

Dillon, Janette, *The Cambridge introduction to Shakespeare's Tragedies* (2007)

Heilman, Robert Bechtold, *Shakespeare, The Tragedies: New Perspectives* (1984)

Leech, Clifford, *Shakespeare: The Tragedies: A Collection of Critical Essays* (1965)

McEachern, Claire Elizabeth, *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespearean Tragedy* (2002)

## Histories

Campbell, Lily Bess, *Shakespeare's "Histories": Mirrors of Elizabethan Policy* (1978)

Waith, Eugene M., *Shakespeare: The Histories: A Collection of Critical Essays* (1965)

Wilders, John, *The Lost Garden: A View of Shakespeare's English and Roman History Plays* (1978)

## Comedies

Charney, Maurice, *Shakespearean Comedy* (1980)

Gay, Penny, *As She Likes It: Shakespeare's Unruly Women* (2002)

Leggatt, Alexander, *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespearean Comedy* (2002)

## Biography

Park, Honan, *Shakespeare: A Life* (1998)

Reese, M. M., *Shakespeare: His World and His Work* (1980)

Rowse, A. L., *William Shakespeare: A Biography* (1963)

Schoenbaum, S., *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Life* (1975)

# SUGGESTED RESEARCH TOOLS

*MLA International Bibliography* (available on-line through the LRC website; a fast way to find worthwhile scholarly studies)

*The Year's Work in English Studies* (a valuable annual review of criticism; summarizes important scholarly studies on an author and/or work and helps you to see context of recent debates and topics of interest; available online through the LRC website)

*Essay and General Literature Index* (excellent source for studies included in edited collections; useful for supplementing all of the above; available online through the LRC website)

# Wayland Baptist University Standards for Writing

Good writing exhibits the following characteristics:

1. **Content** is clearly purposeful, demonstrating depth, insight, and critical thinking.
2. **Structure** and **organization** are effective, coherent, and logically developed.
3. **Conventions** are conscientiously observed. This includes -- but is not limited to -- sentence structure, usage, and mechanics such as punctuation, grammar, and spelling.
4. **Style** is effective. Style has been defined as "the personality of the writing." It includes -- but is not limited to -- word choice, sentence variety, voice, and attention to audience.
5. **Resources** are quoted and cited correctly, exhibiting quality and breadth. Plagiarism is unacceptable. See Plagiarism Statement in WBU Academic Catalog.

# WBU’s Multidisciplinary Tutorial Services

**Location:** Second Floor of the LRC (Library)

**By Appointment Only:** Contact the MTS staff at [mts@wbu.edu](mailto:mts@wbu.edu) or 806-291-3670 to schedule your appointment.

**Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Fri: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Closed Wednesday evenings and all day Saturday.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: 806.291.3670

Email: mts@wbu.edu

# School of Languages and Literature: Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Writing is a collaborative art. Working out ideas for your paper with an instructor, writing tutor, classmate, family member, or friend is encouraged not only for this class, but also for other classes that involve writing. Discussion and collaborative brainstorming are good. However, passing off another's ***writing or ideas*** as your own is plagiarism. It is unethical, it constitutes Academic Dishonesty (cheating), and it is sufficient grounds both for failure of a course and suspension from the university.

Common examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty include the following:

* Copying any amount of text directly from an internet website, book, or other document without ***appropriate citation*** and synthesis into one’s own discussion.
* Paraphrasing the ideas presented in any source or oral discussion without appropriate citation.
* Using the evidence and conclusions of any source as the controlling framework for one’s own paper.
* Recycling work from a previous or current course, whether your own work or another student’s work.
* Purchasing or otherwise downloading a paper from an internet website.

In some writing assignments, you will be expected to incorporate scholarly sources into your document. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING must be met to constitute ***appropriate citation*** of any source:

* Including MLA, Chicago, or APA parenthetical or note-style citation format as required by the instructor.
* Placing borrowed text directly from another source within “quotation marks.”
* Introducing clearly another author’s voice into the document by means of a signal phrase (an introduction of that author).
* Offering, in short, a clear distinction between one’s own voice or ideas and those of any outside authors brought into the discussion.

Wayland Baptist University observes a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding Academic Dishonesty.

* Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will first be evaluated by the instructor and discussed individually with the student.
* If the instructor determines that a student’s actions constitute Academic Dishonesty, the case will be filed with the dean of the School of Languages and Literature and reported to the university executive vice president/provost, as per university policy.
* Per university policy, second offenses RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
* In this course, the first instance of Academic Dishonesty may also result in a zero on the assignment.