

COURSE OUTLINE**English 125
Shakespeare****I. Catalog Statement**

English 125 is an introduction to the works of Shakespeare. The course is focused on a close study of Shakespeare's major plays. It also provides a background and insights into the Elizabethan world so that the student may more fully understand and appreciate Shakespeare's writings.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays;
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues;
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
5. gather and organize information through library research;
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: Control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required course work, the student will be able to:

1. identify the techniques of dramaturgy and be able to analyze and evaluate the underlying concepts and themes of Shakespeare's plays;
2. identify the techniques of poetry and be able to compare and contrast Shakespeare's poetry with that of his contemporaries and predecessors;

3. demonstrate an understanding of the Elizabethan world view and be able to relate its significance to earlier and later eras;
4. demonstrate critical insights into Shakespeare's universality and recognize his relevance to many of the concerns of our time.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours

Each unit of study requires that students critically read and discuss the assignments. Writing requirements emphasize demonstration of rhetorical skills and critical thinking.

A. Introduction and background	5 hours
1. The Elizabethan world picture	
2. Development of Elizabethan drama	
B. Discussion of comedy	2 hour
1. Classical influences	
2. Native English influences	
C. An Assigned Comedy	6 hours
1. Discussion	
2. Analysis	
D. Development of the physical theatre	3 hours
1. Classical theatres	
2. Using the church	
3. Pageant wagons	
4. Inns	
5. The Globe theatre	
E. Problems of Elizabethan printing	1 hour
1. The first English printing press: Caxton	
2. Problems	
F. Poetry and the sonnets	4 hours
1. Poetic techniques	
2. Development of the sonnet	
3. Discussion of assigned sonnets	
G. Discussion of tragedy	4 hours
1. Greek tragedy and its influences	
2. Roman tragedy and its influences	
3. Native English influences	
H. An Assigned Tragedy	6 hours
1. Discussion	
2. Analysis	

I. Discussion of Tudor History	3 hours
1. Background of the romance genre	
2. Socio/political influences	
J. An Assigned History	6 hours
1. Discussion	
2. Analysis	
K. Discussion of Problem Plays	2 hours
1. Discussion	
2. Analysis	
L. An Assigned Problem Play	6 hours
1. Discussion	
2. Analysis	

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. films, videotapes, DVD's, audiotapes, slides, handout materials, and group work are used to supplement lectures, discussion, and readings;
2. class discussion of the plays;
3. collaborative activities, including student performance of scenes;
4. guest speakers from related disciplines may be invited to present special topical material;
5. student attendance of live performances or readings may be used to supplement the material under study.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. an interpretive essay of at least 1200 words;
2. an original "Shakespearean" sonnet;
3. a small-group collaborative project to create a complete play production packet, including thematic justification, costume illustration, stage and blocking diagram, edited shooting script, and DVD/computer file recording of student performance of one scene;
4. assigned readings of plays, sonnets, and background articles.

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. quizzes on plays and background readings;
2. an interpretive essay of at least 1200 words;
3. an original "Shakespearean" sonnet;

4. a small-group collaborative project to create a complete play production packet, including thematic justification, costume illustration, stage and blocking diagram, edited shooting script, and DVD/computer file recording of student performance of one scene.

VIII. Textbooks

Bevington, *The Necessary Shakespeare*, New York: Longman, 2008.
14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-0205652167.

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

1. explain the development of Shakespearean literature; identify the major elements and the cultural, social, and historical developments of Shakespearean literature;
2. read critically in order to analyze literary works for themes and other literary elements;
3. write thesis-centered essays which analyze and interpret literary, cultural, social, and historical themes and other elements of Shakespearean literature.