# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 125**

**Shakespeare**

1. **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.

#### Units - 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Prerequisite: Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 101.

1. **Course Entry Expectations**

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

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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 as specified by the English 120 rubric.
7. **Course Exit Standards**

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

1. learn the techniques of dramaturgy and be able to analyze and evaluate the underlying concepts and themes of Shakespeare’s plays,
2. learn the techniques of poetry and be able to compare and contrast Shakespeare’s poetry with that of their contemporaries and predecessors,
3. gain an understanding of the Elizabethan world view and be able to realte its significance to earlier and later eras,
4. gain critical insights into Shakespeare’s universality and recognize his relevance to many of the concerns of our time.

**IV**. **Course Content**

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 1 hour

1. Classical influences
2. Native English influences

C. Comedy of Errors 4 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. Textural problems

F. The Taming of the Shrew 4 hours

1. Discussion
2. Analysis

G. Poetry and the sonnets 4 hours

1. Poetic techniques
2. Development of the sonnet
3. Discussion of assigned sonnets

H. A Midsummer Night’s Dream 4 hours

1. Discussion
2. Analysis

I. Discussion of tragedy 4 hours

1. Greek tragedy and its influence
2. Roman tragedy and its influence
3. Native English influences

J. Romeo and Juliet 4 hours

1. Discussion
2. Analysis

K. Othello 4 hours

1. Discussion
2. Analysis

L. Hamlet 4 hours

1. Discussion
2. Analysis

M. The late plays: romances 2 hours

1. Background of the romance genre
2. Socio/political influences

N. The Tempest 4 hours

1. Discussion
2. Analysis

1. **Methods of Presentation**
2. Films, videotapes, DVD’s, audiotapes, slides, handout materials, and group work are used to supplement lectures, discussion, and readings.
3. Guest speakers from related disciplines may be invited to present special topical material.
4. Student attendance of live performances or readings may be used to supplement the material under study.
5. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**
6. Three written examinations during the semester and a final two-and-one-half hour written comprehensive examination.
7. Each examination will consist of six short essays. The essays are expected to show the student’s ability to reflect critical through an understanding of rhetorical principles.
8. **Textbook**

Bevington, The Necessary Shakespeare, 3rd edition, 0205652166, Longman, 2008

1. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. understand the development of Shakespearian literature; identify the major elements and the cultural, social, and historical developments of Shakespearian 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 Shakespearian literature.