GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

ENGLISH 218 – SHAKESPEARE – HIS PLAYS AND THE THEATRE OF HIS TIME

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

ENGL 218 Shakespeare – His Plays and the Theatre of His Time 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course introduces students to William Shakespeare’s plays and the theatre of his time. Students will read, interpret, and analyze several of Shakespeare’s plays—including the play(s) being produced or viewed locally—that represent the full range of his comedic, historical, and tragic works, such as *A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night, Richard II, Henry IV, Othello, Macbeth, King Lear, and Hamlet.* The point of the course is to prepare students to understand and appreciate more fully the experience of seeing, reading, and discussing Shakespeare. The course will make apt use of actors in the classroom, good films, recordings of the plays, and theatre tours.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Identify and analyze dramatic principles of comedy, history and tragedy in selected works of Shakespeare.

b. Define and apply terms related to the study of drama.

c. Relate the literary works to their historical, philosophical, social, political, regional, linguistic, and/or aesthetic contexts of Shakespeare’s language and images and the theatre of his time.

d. Identify and illustrate character types and the subtleties and innovations of Shakespeare’s

characters.

e. Analyze and synthesize Shakespeare’s themes, particularly his great theme of order, based on the Elizabethan idea of the Chain of Correspondences.

f. Relate the themes of plays to human experience.

g. Demonstrate appropriate academic discourse and the conventions of evidence-based critical literary analysis.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

1. Access to a computer, the Internet, and a printer (available on campus).
2. Collegiate dictionary and thesaurus.

7. Course Content

a. Biographical and historical context of William Shakespeare and how it influenced his works.

b. The theatre and staging of Shakespeare’s time.

c. Six to seven of Shakespeare’s plays, including at least one comedy, one tragedy, and one history.

d. The dramatic principles of comedy, history, and tragedy in Shakespearean drama.

e. Performances of Shakespeare’s plays: live productions and/or recordings, videotapes, films, and DVDs of assigned texts.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lectures and presentations by the instructor and visiting writers and/or speakers.
2. Facilitation of student analysis, interpretation, and discussion of literature.
3. Student-led inquiry into relevant literature and theoretical frameworks via discussion groups, presentations, and other projects.
4. Multi-modal texts (i.e. films, short video content, podcasts, social media, and audio clips), including modern and culturally diverse interpretations.
5. Whole class discussion of sample writing (student and/or professional), peer workshops, and instructor-student conferences to help students successfully complete assignments.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Source collection/research development exercises, such as annotated bibliographies.
2. Reader responses/journals on assigned readings.
3. Quizzes on assigned readings.
4. In-class analysis, interpretation, and discussion of literature.
5. Reviews of/reflections on literary arts activities (i.e. poetry readings, plays, etc.)
6. Contribution in small-group activities and/or peer workshops

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Read assigned texts.

b. Write analytical and appreciative, evidence-based essays.

c. Attend live productions and/or watch filmic adaptations of Shakespeare’s dramas.

d. Maintain journals or other types of unstructured prose.

e. Attend literary events and readings on campus and in the greater literary community.

f. Individual group projects.

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Text(s):

1) Bevington, David. *The Necessary Shakespeare.* 5th ed. New York: Longman, 2016.

1. Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare*. New York: Penguin Books, 2002.
2. Folger Library paperback editions of selected plays. New York: Washington Square Press, 2018 (for Julius Ceasar).
3. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
   1. Barnet, Sylvan and William E. Cain. *A Short Guide to Writing About Literature*.  12th ed.

New York:  Longman Publishers, 2011.

* 1. *MLA Handbook*  9th ed. New York: Modern Language

Association of America, 2021.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Use literary terminology related to the study of drama and basic critical theory to discuss, analyze, synthesize, and interpret William Shakespeare’s plays.
2. Write evidence-based literary analyses of William Shakespeare’s plays demonstrating close reading and interpretive skills, logical reasoning, and argumentative strategies.
3. Identify Shakespeare’s themes, techniques, philosophies, and conventions in regard to comedy, history, and tragedy.