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Spring 2-1-2019

# LIT 327.01: Shakespeare

Robert E. Baker

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LIT 327.01

# Shakespeare

## Instructor Information

Robert Baker (543-4135 / [robert.baker@mso.umt.edu](mailto:robert.baker@mso.umt.edu))

Spring 2019

TR 9:30 – 10:50

LA 307

Office Hours: TR 11:30 – 1:00 or by appointment (LA 219)

## Course Description

This course is an introductory study of seven of Shakespeare's plays. We will begin with a comedy, *As You Like It*, and end with a romance, *The Winter's Tale*, but for the most part we will concentrate on five of Shakespeare's great tragedies: *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*. We will devote much of our time to discussing the things one always wants to discuss in responding to a play: plot, character, theme, mood, figurative pattern, linguistic energy, larger meanings, and broader contexts. We will, too, trace connections among the plays we read, clarify the basic preoccupations expressed in the different genres in which Shakespeare works, and explore the distinctive ways in which Shakespeare represents the self. Above all we will try to understand, from a range of perspectives, what Shakespearean tragedy is all about.

## Course Requirements

Reading of all assigned texts

Regular attendance and engagement

One or two quizzes

Two short papers (5-7 pages)

One longer final paper (10-12 pages)

## Texts

*As You Like It*

*Hamlet*

*Othello*

*King Lear*

*Macbeth*

*Antony and Cleopatra*

*The Winter's Tale*

Essays on Moodle

## Learning Outcomes

- To become an experienced and insightful interpreter of Shakespeare—the plays, the films, the cultural phenomenon.
- To become adept at constructing clear, imaginative, interesting readings of literary texts, in particular of Shakespeare’s plays.
- To become proficient in writing persuasive essays that have a thesis, a coherent argument, and an articulate texture.

## Map of Course

\*There may be slight changes as we move along.

\*Most of the essays are optional: but I may require that you read one or two of them.

R Jan 10

Introduction

T Jan 15

*As You Like It*

Northrop Frye, “The Mythos of Spring: Comedy”

R Jan 17

*As You Like It*

T Jan 22

*As You Like It*

Rosalie Colie, “Perspectives on Pastoral”

R Jan 24

*As You Like It*

T Jan 29

*Hamlet*

Northrop Frye, “The Mythos of Autumn: Tragedy”

R Jan 31

*Hamlet*

T Feb 5

*Hamlet*

R Feb 7

*Hamlet*

Harold Goddard, chapter on *Hamlet* from *The Meaning of Shakespeare*

Janet Adelman, chapter on *Hamlet* from *Suffocating Mothers*

T Feb 12

*Othello*

R Feb 14

*Othello*

\*\*\* Paper I Due \*\*\*

T Feb 19

*Othello*

Tony Tanner, chapter on *Othello* from *Prefaces to Shakespeare*

R Feb 21

*King Lear*

T Feb 26

*King Lear*

\*\*\* Quiz I \*\*\*

R Feb 28

*King Lear*

Marjorie Garber, chapter on *King Lear* from *Shakespeare After All*

T Mar 5

*King Lear*

R Mar 7

*King Lear*

T Mar 12

*Macbeth*

R Mar 14

*Macbeth*

\*\*\* Paper II Due \*\*\*

T Mar 19

*Macbeth*

Stephen Booth, “*Macbeth*, Aristotle, Definition, and Tragedy”

R Mar 21

*Macbeth*

T Mar 26

Spring Break

R Mar 28

Spring Break

T Apr 2

*Antony and Cleopatra*

R Apr 4

*Antony and Cleopatra*

Harold Bloom, chapter on *Antony and Cleopatra* from *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*

T Apr 9

*Antony and Cleopatra*

R Apr 11

*The Winter's Tale*

\*\*\* Quiz II \*\*\*

T Apr 16

*The Winter's Tale*

R Apr 18

*The Winter's Tale*

A. D. Nuttall, “The Last Plays” from *Shakespeare the Thinker*

Marjorie Garber, chapter on *The Winter's Tale* from *Shakespeare After All*

T Apr 23

*The Winter's Tale*

R Apr 25

Review

\*\*\* Final Paper: Due on Friday 26 April by 5:00 p.m. \*\*\*

## Department and University Policies

### Department Assessment

The English Department's process of curriculum assessment requires that faculty read student papers, outside of specific courses, to measure the progress students are making as they move through the program. One of your papers may be selected to be evaluated in this assessment process. If so, all identifying information will be removed, and no evaluation of your work outside the course will have any effect on your grade. If you wish that your work not be read a second time in this context, please let me know, and I will make sure that none of your work is forwarded to the assessment committee.

### Disability Accommodation

It is university policy that students with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations in their course-work. If you wish to request accommodations, please do contact me early in the semester, and I will work with you and Disability Services to make sure that the necessary accommodations are made. For more information, call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text), or visit the [Disability Services website](#).