**ENG 491, Shakespeare, Summer 2014, 3 Credit Hours**

Dr. Sarah Stafford Sims

Carter 217A

Office Hours: 12:00-1:00 MWF; 2:00-3:00 M; 9:30-11:00, 1:45-2:15 TTh

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**Course Description**

In ENG 491 representative comedies, histories, and tragedies of Shakespeare are studied. Prerequisites are ENG 112 and six hours of literature.

**Texts**

Bevington, David. *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*. 6th ed. New York: Pearson, 2009.

The *MLA Handbook* and *A Handbook to Literature* are strongly recommended.

**Course Objectives**

* To gain insight into Shakespearean drama, demonstrating knowledge of key plays, poems, terms, and themes in his writings
* To develop skills in critiquing literary texts, giving informed interpretations of a selection of Shakespeare’s comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances; persuasively defending such analyses orally and in writing; and performing in-depth library and Internet research to support a lengthy analysis written in MLA style.
* To recognize patterns in literary texts, making connections among Shakespeare’s works, various dramatic writings, and the Renaissance period; among English, American, and world writers and historical events; among information within other academic disciplines; and among students’ personal views and creative work.
* To find value in varied critical approaches; in the wide-ranging views of other eras, cultures, and opinions; in connections between literature and one’s own life; and in worthy ideas and skills.
* To recognize literary quality and the power of literary expression as an agent of change while enjoying the pleasure of reading and the beauty of language.
* To learn methods of problem-solving for literary texts and to view the reading of literature as a pleasure well worth cultivating and continuing.

**Course Outline**

Week One: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *The Merchant of Venice*; Sonnets 1-40

Week Two: *Richard III* and *Henry IV, Part I*; Sonnets 41-80

Week Three: *Hamlet* and *Othello*; Sonnets 81-120

Week Four: *Antony and Cleopatra* and *The Tempest*; Sonnets 121-54

**Course Requirements**

4 Exams: Tests include identification, paragraph answers, and essay questions.

Research Paper: The scholarly research paper presents the student’s original argument concerning a

text or texts written by Shakespeare. A minimum of ten scholarly sources, including both books and academic journal articles, should be cited in addition to the primary source, the text(s) analyzed. The paper should cover 15 pages, follow MLA format, and include a formal sentence outline. The focus of the essay should be the student’s interpretation of and argument about a text, perhaps centering on a symbol, character, word, setting, theme, or idea. Research should be incorporated to support the student’s position; however, the focus should not be on what critics say about the text but on an issue that intrigues and puzzles the student about which he or she wishes to offer, based on the text itself, an interpretation. Close reading of a text, soundly-based and well-presented argument interpreting it, and skillful research are the goals of the paper. Students express their topic, plan, and resources for the paper within a research proposal early in the semester. Students planning to do graduate work in English should research a text not studied within the course. Copies of sources are to be submitted with the essay.

Analysis of a Literary Character: Students develop a five-page argument analyzing one of Shakespeare’s characters, providing strong textual support for their conclusions.

Poem Analysis: In a minimum of four pages, students thoroughly explicate and analyze a short poem

or passage of Shakespeare’s poetry that has not been discussed in class.

Conferences: Students are expected to visit the instructor’s office at least once during the semester to

discuss their progress and to receive guidance in writing the research paper.

Participation: Students are expected to attend class, student conferences, and theater trips; to be prepared to participate actively in every class meeting; to contribute to class and peer group discussions; to complete all written and reading assignments on time; and to participate in all in- class exercises and writings. Late papers automatically are deducted one letter-grade; papers more than two weeks late will not be accepted.

**Evaluation**

These elements compose the final grade:

4 Exams – 400 points

Research Paper – 150 points

Poem Analysis – 40 points

Character Analysis – 40 points

Participation – 20 points

Grading Scale

A = 585-650 points

B = 520-584 points

C = 455-519 points

D = 390-454 points

F = 0-389 points

Plagiarized work is unacceptable, unethical, and fraudulent. It results in automatic failure of the course. In addition, expulsion from the university can occur.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend every meeting of ENG 491. For illness, unavoidable personal emergencies, and school trips, the equivalent of two weeks of class (6 sessions in MWF classes; 4 sessions in TTh classes) may be missed without penalty. Work missed during an unapproved absence may not be made up. Two absences result in automatic withdrawal from the course.

**Academic Support Statement**

The Writing Center and Learning Commons, both located in the Badgett Academic Support Center, provide tutors and general support for reading, writing, research, and learning on all topics. Consult the CU webpage for Learning Commons and Writing Center hours as well as posted announcements. Ask for tutoring for any subject with which you need help. Students may also use the Center and Commons in self-guided learning, employing the study rooms and computers and checking out video cameras.

**University Information**

Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented physical and learning disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions. If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services. Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment. Please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 270-789-5192 to inquire about services.

Campus Security can be reached at 270-789-5555 and 270-403-3611.