

YORK UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**EN 3535B 6.0 (Y): SHAKESPEARE**

**Term:** Fall-Winter 2019-20

**Open To:** All spaces reserved for Yr 03 and 04 EN, ENPR, PRWR and CRWR majors/minors (please contact the English department office for more information).

**Instructor Information:**

**Course Director:** Elizabeth Pentland [pent@yorku.ca](mailto:pent@yorku.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Fridays 2pm-3pm or by appointment (ATK 532)

**Teaching Assistant:** Diana Jones [dianacj@yorku.ca](mailto:dianacj@yorku.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Fridays 2:30-3:30 or by appointment (ATK 642)

**Meeting Times and Locations:**

LECTURES	CLH 110	Fridays 10:30am-12:30pm
TUTR 01	CB 120	Fridays 12:30pm-1:30pm (Pentland)
TUTR 02	CB 120	Fridays 1:30pm-2:30pm (Jones)
TUTR 03	BC 215	Fridays 12:30pm-1:30pm (Jones)

**Web and Email:**

**Course Website:** Our reading schedule, assignments, handouts, lecture slides, and links relevant to this course will be posted to our **Moodle** site, which can be accessed at: <https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/>. The site will be updated periodically.

NB: To access materials in Moodle, you must **Login using your Passport York ID** and password.

**Electronic Submission:** Students are required to submit electronic copies of **all major assignments** via our **Moodle site**. This our way of “time stamping” your submission and ensuring we have copies of all submitted work. Your TA may request a paper copy of your assignment for grading purposes.

**Expanded Course Description:**

This course offers a survey of Shakespeare's major dramatic works, and will introduce students to the literary, cultural, and historical contexts in which he worked. As we proceed, we will consider Shakespeare's representation of race, class, sexuality and gender, language, and nationhood, as well as his engagement with European popular literature, English politics and history, and the classical world. We will also explore how his works have been interpreted and adapted in the twentieth century with a view to understanding both his enduring popularity and his relevance for today's world.

**Organization of the Course:**

This course will consist of a weekly two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial. The lectures, which from time to time will be supplemented by films and /or other illustrative materials, will typically provide historical, cultural, and other contexts for understanding Shakespeare's works. Our discussions in the lecture hall and in tutorial will allow us to unpack, together, the language of the plays (Shakespeare's prose, verse forms, rhetorical devices, imagery), the theatrical and literary conventions at work in them (generic conventions, implicit or explicit stage directions, casting and costuming, metatheatre), and the issues or concerns that Shakespeare is addressing. Together, we will perform close readings of key scenes or speeches and consider what the plays can tell us about the place of the theatre in early modern England and in our own culture today. In general, students are expected to come to class each week having read the assigned play or plays and should be prepared to talk about the range of literary, cultural, and moral issues raised there. Your tutorial leader may ask you to complete a number of small assignments including brief response papers or reports, reading quizzes, or peer editing. All such work will be counted, along with your contributions to class discussions, toward your participation in this course.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the dramatic works of William Shakespeare. We will consider not only the historical contexts in which they were written, but also some of the issues and assumptions that have shaped their modern reception.

It is hoped that students will

- develop a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's dramatic works.
- learn about the literary, cultural, and historical contexts in which he wrote.
- examine and interrogate representations of race, class, sexuality and gender, language, and nationhood in Shakespeare's works.
- learn about Shakespeare's engagement with European popular literature, English politics and history, and the classical world.
- consider some of the ways his works have been interpreted and adapted on film
- critically evaluate Shakespeare's enduring popularity and his relevance for today's world.
- improve their ability to read and write about literature.

**Course Texts:**

(Pelican Shakespeare paperbacks are available at the York University Bookstore)

*Titus Andronicus*  
*Richard III*  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
*Henry IV, Part 1*  
*Henry V*  
*As You Like It*

*Hamlet*  
*The Merry Wives of Windsor*  
*Othello*  
*Antony and Cleopatra*  
*The Winter's Tale*  
*The Tempest*

**Requirements:**

Textual Analysis Paper	(15%)	DUE: November 1, 2019
Midterm test	(15%)	IN CLASS: November 29, 2019
Film Review Essay	(15%)	DUE: January 24, 2020
Final Essay	(20%)	DUE: March 20, 2020
Final examination	(20%)	TBA (during exam period, April 2020)
Participation	(15%)	ongoing

## POLICIES & IMPORTANT DATES

### COURSE POLICIES

**Grading:** The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 - 100, A = 80 - 90, B+ = 75 - 79, etc.). For a full description of the York grading system, see the York University Undergraduate Calendar: <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/academic/grades/index.htm>

**Attendance:** Students are strongly encouraged to regularly attend class meetings, to arrive on time, and to come fully prepared to discuss the assigned work. The quality and regularity of your contributions to our discussions will be the determining factors in your Participation grade (worth 15% of your final grade in this course).

**Due Dates:** Unless you have made other arrangements with me in advance of the deadline, all assignments are to be handed in during class on the due date specified. **Please Note:** The English Department office staff cannot accept, date stamp, handle, or return essays or other assignments. Late assignments may be posted to Moodle up to two weeks after the deadline. If you cannot meet this deadline, you must make alternate arrangements with your tutorial leader. Be sure to bring a hard copy of your work to the following class.

**Late Papers:** A penalty of two percent (2%) per day will be assessed on all late papers to a maximum penalty of 30% of the assignment grade. Exceptions may be made for valid reasons such as illness but supporting documentation (ie. Attending Physician's Statement) will be required. Work that is not completed within the normal timeframe of the course will receive a grade of zero, unless you have negotiated a Deferred Standing Agreement with me.

**Extensions:** You are responsible for meeting all the course deadlines in a timely fashion. Extensions may be granted under very limited circumstances, providing you negotiate with me well in advance of the assignment deadline. Last-minute requests (ie. within 48 hours of the deadline) are generally not acceptable and will only be considered under exceptional circumstances (ie. serious illness, family emergency, or similar). Extensions will not be granted once the deadline for the assignment has passed.

**Academic Accommodations:** Students requiring academic accommodations on account of a documented disability are required to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and to provide a letter from SAS outlining the nature of those accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to negotiate extended

deadlines (or other needs) with me ahead of time, and to schedule any tests and exams with the Alternate Exams office: <http://altexams.students.yorku.ca/>. All requests for accommodation will remain confidential.

**Personal Counselling Services** (N110 Bennett Centre for Student Services; 416-736-5297 during business hours). For urgent matters, or in case of crisis, you will find important information here: <http://pcs.info.yorku.ca/in-case-of-crisis/>

**Ontario Post-Secondary Student Helpline (24 hours/7 Days):** [1-866-925-5454](tel:1-866-925-5454).  
<https://good2talk.ca/>

**The Writing Centre:** Offers individual tutoring or instruction in all aspects of academic writing. An excellent resource for all students looking to improve their writing. Specialized help is available for ESL students as well as students with disabilities affecting language learning and language skills. Electronic tutoring is also offered. Appointments can be made online: <http://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca>.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are urged to read York University's policy at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>. Taking responsibility for your work and acknowledging the contributions of others is absolutely essential to this course, and to your career at York University. You may not present other people's words or ideas – whether word-for-word, in paraphrase, or in summary – as if they are your own. To avoid plagiarizing, you must cite all sources in both written work and oral presentations. The **minimum** penalty for plagiarism in this course is a **zero** for the plagiarized assignment or grade component. If you are not sure how to cite, please ask me.

To learn more about Academic Honesty and proper citation, please visit the **York University Libraries'** resource page:  
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/web/research-learn/academic-integrity/>

**Turnitin.com:** the instructors for this course reserve the right to check the integrity and originality of any student work submitted for this course using <https://www.turnitin.com/> or a similar service.

**Dropping the Course:** You are responsible for knowing all sessional dates for this course, including the last day to drop this course without receiving a grade. After the official drop date, you may withdraw in good standing from this course until the last day of the Fall term. If you choose to withdraw after the February drop date, you will receive a grade of "W" on your transcript. You must drop or withdraw by the dates indicated, and you must do so online or through the Registrar's Office; you cannot simply stop coming to class. If your name is still

on the class list by the end of the course, and you have done none or very little of the work, you will receive an F.

**Last Day to Drop this Course without Receiving a Grade:** February 3, 2020.

**Withdrawal Period** (receive a “W” on transcript): February 4-April 5, 2020.

**Other Important Course Information for Students:** All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the York Secretariat’s Policies, Procedures and Regulations webpage:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

- Academic Accommodations for students with disabilities.
- Student Conduct Standards.
- Religious Observance Accommodation.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Fall Term**

NB: Our reading schedule may be adjusted from time to time as we work our way through the plays. Any updates or changes will be posted to our Moodle page.

#### **WEEK 1**

**Sept 6 (F):** Introduction

#### **WEEK 2**

**Sept 13 (F):** *Titus Andronicus*

#### **WEEK 3**

**Sept 20 (F):** *Titus Andronicus / Richard III*

#### **WEEK 4**

**Sept 27 (F):** *Richard III*

#### **WEEK 5**

**Oct 4 (F):** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

#### **WEEK 6**

**Oct 11 (F):** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

#### **WEEK 7**

**Oct 18 (F):** **FALL READING WEEK (no classes)**

#### **WEEK 8**

**Oct 25 (F):** *Henry IV, Part I*

#### **WEEK 9** **FIRST PAPER DUE (worth 15%)**

**Nov 1 (F):** *Henry IV, Part I / Henry V*

#### **WEEK 10**

**Nov 8 (F):** *Henry V*

#### **WEEK 11**

**Nov 15 (F):** *As You Like It*

#### **WEEK 12**

**Nov 22 (F):** *As You Like It*

#### **WEEK 13** [Final class of Fall Term]

**Nov 29 (T):** **MIDTERM TEST (worth 15%)**

**Winter Term****WEEK 14****Jan 10 (F):** *Hamlet***WEEK 15****Jan 17 (F):** *Hamlet***WEEK 16 SECOND PAPER DUE (worth 15%)****Jan 24 (F):** *The Merry Wives of Windsor***WEEK 17****Jan 31 (F):** *The Merry Wives of Windsor***WEEK 18****Feb 7 (F):** *Othello***WEEK 19****Feb 14 (F):** *Othello***WEEK 20****Feb 21 (F):** **WINTER READING WEEK****WEEK 21****Feb 28 (F):** *Antony and Cleopatra***WEEK 22****Mar 6 (F):** *Antony and Cleopatra***WEEK 23****Mar 13 (F):** *The Winter's Tale***WEEK 24 FINAL PAPER DUE (worth 20%)****Mar 20 (F):** *The Winter's Tale***WEEK 25****Mar 27 (F):** *The Tempest***WEEK 26****April 3 (F):** *The Tempest / Conclusion***FINAL EXAM (worth 20%):** TBA [Exam period: **April 7-April 25, 2020**]