

Dr. Amy Tigner
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Office Hours: M 5-6 p.m. W 11-12 a.m.
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English 4326, Section 001 Fall 2009 Shakespeare
Preston Hall 310; 1:00-2:20 p.m.

Shakespeare and the Questions of Debate

For each of the plays that we will read this semester— *Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard III*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *The Winter's Tale*—students will have the opportunity to participate in formal debates in which they will research the argument and then present their evidence as a debater. The object of the class is to dig deeply into the fundamental questions and cruxes of these 400-year-old texts that continue to fire intellectual curiosity and debate, while honing the students' own rhetorical skills.



Newly discovered “Cobb” portrait of William Shakespeare

Textbooks

Norton Shakespeare

Making Shakespeare: From Stage to Page by Tiffany Stern (**Paperback** - Mar 25, 2004)

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor.

| Date | Reading | Activities | Assignments |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Mon. Aug. 24 | | Introduction to the class | |
| Wed. Aug 26 | <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> Introduction to the Norton | | Quiz |
| Mon. Aug. 31 | <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> | | Synopsis Due (Hard copy in class) |
| Wed. Sept. 2 | <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> <i>Making Shakespeare,</i> Chapter one | | |
| Monday Sept. 7 (labor day) | | No class Labor day | |
| Wed. Sept. 9 | <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> | In class research activities | |
| Mon. Sept. 14 | <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> | In class research activities | Class Presentations |
| Wed. Sept 16 | <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> | Debate | Position papers due by class time via email: altigner@gmail.com |
| Mon Sept. 21 | <i>Richard III</i> Introduction to the Norton | | Synopsis Due(Hard copy in class) |
| Wed. Sept. 23 | <i>Richard III</i> <i>Making Shakespeare,</i> Chapter two | | Quiz Perform memorized sonnet |
| Mon Sept. 28 | <i>Richard III</i> | | Perform memorized sonnet |
| Wed. Sept. 30 | <i>Richard III</i> | In class research activities | |
| Mon Oct. 5 | <i>Richard III</i> | In class research activities | Class Presentations |
| Wed. Oct. 7 | <i>Richard III</i> | Debate | Position papers due by class time via email: altigner@gmail.com |
| Mon. Oct. 12 | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> Introduction to the Norton | | Synopsis Due (Hard copy in class) |
| Wed. Oct. 14 | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> <i>Making Shakespeare,</i> Chapter three | | Quiz |
| Mon. Oct 19 | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> | In class research activities | |
| Wed. Oct. 21 | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> | In class research | Class Presentations |

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| | | activities | |
| Mon Oct. 19 | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> | Debate | Position papers due by class time via email: altigner@gmail.com |
| Wed. Oct. 21 | Midterm Exam | | Midterm Exam |
| Mon. Oct. 26 | <i>Hamlet</i> Introduction to the Norton | | Synopsis Due (Hard copy in class) |
| Wed. Oct. 28 | <i>Hamlet</i> <i>Making Shakespeare,</i> Chapter four | | Quiz |
| Mon Nov. 2 | <i>Hamlet</i> | In class research activities | Perform memorized soliloquy |
| Wed. Nov. 4 | <i>Hamlet</i> | In class research activities | Perform memorized soliloquy |
| Mon. Nov. 9 | <i>Hamlet</i> | In class research activities | Class presentations Perform memorized soliloquy |
| Wed. Nov 11 | <i>Hamlet</i> | Debate | Position papers due by class time via email: altigner@gmail.com |
| Mon. Nov 16 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> Introduction to the Norton | | Synopsis Due (Hard copy in class) |
| Wed Nov 18 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> | | Perform memorized sonnet |
| Mon. Nov. 23 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> | In class research activities | Quiz Perform memorized sonnet |
| Wed. Nov 25 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> | In class research activities | |
| Mon. Nov. 30 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> | Review for final | Final paper due (3000 words), due before class, via email altigner@gmail.com |
| Wed. Dec. 2 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> | Debate | Perform memorized soliloquy |
| Dec. 7 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | Final Exam | Exam | |

Graded assignments:

20%: 2 position papers (900-1000 words), 2 scholarly sources

20%: 1 final research paper (3000 words), with a minimum of 8 scholarly sources.

10%: 1 Midterm

10%: 1 Final

20%: Oral components/class participation: debates (number will vary depending on the size of the class); 2 memorized sonnets; 1 memorized soliloquies; class presentations

20%: Homework, quizzes, and 4 Synopses (you have five opportunities and you only have to do four)

Throughout the semester, I will give you opportunities for extra credit:

For example: attending talks for the Hermanns Lecture series: “Greening Shakespeare” on Oct. 16 and writing a one page report.

The Final Essay The final paper will be on assigned topics, and the deadline on the syllabus are firm. For every day the paper is late, I will drop your grade by ½ letter grade.

Position Papers: For your position papers, you will need to write two (approx. 900-1000 words) essays in which you argue one side or the other of the question presented for the debate. For every day the paper is late, I will drop your grade by ½ letter grade.

Oral Debates: Everyone will participate in 2-4 debates (depending on the class size) as debaters and all other debates as judges. You will receive a group grade for the debates. The winners of the debate will receive an A and the losers will receive a B.

Daily Reading/Lecture Quizzes: All quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. You will have the first 10 minutes of class to complete the quiz. If you are late, you can only take the quiz if you arrive within the first 10 minutes of class and you will have to turn in your quiz at the cut-off time. You cannot take the quiz at any other time than when it is given in class. Remember that I will drop the lowest quiz grade. Be prepared to be quizzed on lectures and the readings.

Synopses: For 5 out of the 6 plays, write a scene by scene synopsis; also include the line or lines that you find to be the most significant or intriguing. Be sure that the writing is your own, rather than cutting and pasting from SparkNotes or any other synopsis. Be prepared to talk about why you find the lines you have chosen for each scene. The synopsis is due at the beginning of class on the day that it is due; I will not accept late synopses (which is why you get to take one pass). I will grade the synopses with a check +, check, or check -.

The Midterm Examination: The midterm will be a combination of short answer and essay questions.

The Final Examination: The final will be a combination of short answer and essay questions.

Attendance:

You may miss up to three classes for any reason with impunity—no questions asked and no explanations expected. If you have four absences, however, I will reduce your final average by one letter grade, and after the fifth absence you cannot ordinarily pass the course. Please note that, after a second absence, I am willing to make accommodations for absences due to

serious emergencies, but only if you provide an explanation (email is fine) within 48 hours of the class missed.

Class time is a precious commodity, so please be punctual. You may be marked absent if you are more than ten minutes late to class.

Please do not sleep in class. Being present both mentally and physically is necessary to learn in the class. If you are sleeping in class, you may be asked to leave, and you will be then counted absent.

Drop Policy:

If for some reason you cannot continue attending class, be sure to drop the course, because faculty members can no longer purge students from the official roll. Students may drop courses freely until September 9, the census date this term; after that, but before Oct. 30, students may fill out a drop form and receive a grade of “W”; after Oct. 30 it will not be possible to drop a course.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, will assist you with any writing assignment while you are a student at UT-Arlington. During Fall 2008, the Writing Center’s hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday; and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at www.uta.edu/owl/appointments, by calling 817 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can assist you with any aspect of your writing, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; tutors will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you learn to solve your grammatical and organizational problems. I encourage each of you to use the Writing Center.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty—which includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarizing, taking an examination for another person—is perhaps the most serious offense to the ideals of the University and of higher education more generally. We will investigate all suspected cases and will refer all persons we believe to be involved in academic dishonesty to the proper University authorities for further investigation and, if necessary, discipline.

Do not pay anyone to write a paper for you or take un-credited writing from the Internet. Do the work!

Students with Disabilities:

The University is committed to accommodating students with disabilities, and so are we. For general information, visit the Office for Students with Disabilities, located on the lower level of the University Center, or call 817-272-3364 (TDD 817-272-3323). If you require accommodation based on a disability for this class, we would like to meet with you in the privacy of my office sometime during the first two weeks of the semester to make sure that you are properly accommodated.