

ENGL 351-1 Shakespeare's Comedies (3)
80150 Fall 2014
Professor: June Sylvester Saraceno
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Office and hours: PL 201, T/Th 1:00-3:00 and by appointment
Class Meeting Time: PL 214 M/W 2:30-3:45
Prerequisites: ENGL 101

Course Description:

ENGL 351: The Comedies of Shakespeare (3) [AY]

Prerequisite: ENGL 101. This course focuses on elements of comic drama, characters, and historical context in selected plays from Shakespeare. The course also involves comparison and critiques of various film versions of selected plays.

Required Texts: *

1. *Simply Shakespeare*; Toby Widdcombe, Pearson; ISBN: 0-321-07704-0
2. *Much Ado About Nothing*; Signet Classic; ISBN 0-451-52681-3
3. *Taming of the Shrew*, Signet Classic
4. *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Signet Classic
5. *The Tempest*; Signet Classic
6. *The Merchant of Venice*; Signet Classic; 9780451526809

* Please purchase the books listed even though these works exist in other texts. I have kept costs to a minimum and I would like for the entire class to be on the same page, literally.

Recommended Texts:

1. *Little, Brown Compact Handbook* or similar grammar text

Instructional Strategies:

Instruction for this class includes lectures, in class discussions, videos, quizzes, responses posted on Moodle, small group work/student readings, skits and presentations.

Student Outcomes:

1. On successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
2. Define comedy by listing and explaining conventions of the genre
3. Examine and analyze plays in depth
4. Demonstrate verbally and in writing knowledge of plot, theme and style of each play
5. Demonstrate verbally and in writing knowledge of specific critical essays on the plays
6. Articulate central themes and unifying features of Shakespeare's comedies

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes:

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Quizzes, exams
2. Written assignments (Moodle, response papers, etc)
3. Discussions, presentations, readings
4. Individually designed project

Class Requirements:

Students will be required to do a significant amount of reading including reading aloud in class. We will view clips from many of the plays we study and students will also act out scenes. Students are responsible for all material covered during the course whether handed out in class, shown as video in class, posted on Moodle, discussed in class, read as an assignment, or disseminated in any other way. Keep track of your work, including print outs of electronic files if necessary. Quizzes, exams, and various writing assignments will be based on material covered during the course. Quizzes are given in the first ten minutes of class and may not be made up at any other time. There is also a midterm and final exam and one project required.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every class. The class begins promptly at 2:30; please be on time. Chronic lateness will result in point deductions. (Additionally, FYI, I view chronic lateness as disrespectful of others' time, both mine and your classmates'.) If a student is absent, work due on that day is still due. It may be e-mailed, brought in by a classmate, or by whatever means students find convenient. Work is due at 2:30 when the class begins. Attendance results in points accrued (or lost) and is a significant part of the grade for this class. Some absences are excused and do not adversely affect students' grades. These include absences followed by a note from a medical facility identifying you were under medical care on that day at that time, and absences resulting from attending school-related trips. Other absences may be excused if the situation warrants. It is the students' responsibility to see me to discuss the nature of the absence. Please plan to stay for the entire class. If you know you will need to leave early on any given day, please let me know before class begins.

Project:

Students are required to complete one project to present to class. This may be many things; the only restriction is that it may not be a traditional research paper (although it will probably involve significant research). Project ideas/plans should be submitted to me for approval by the end of the second week of class. Follow individual areas of interest when determining the project idea. Sample project ideas include: re-writing a play into a contemporary setting (full five acts), writing a parody of one of the plays (full five acts), an original screen play based on one of plays, edited video of student performances from one or more of the plays, setting a soliloquy to music or creating a musical score for a play, paintings of key characters as you envision them, writing an additional or alternative act for one of the plays in Shakespearean English. Use your imagination. A presentation date sign up sheet will be distributed and students may select their preferred date to present. **Points (15) will be deducted if that date is changed.**

Grading Policy:

Grades are based on the accumulation of points during the semester in the following ways:

200 skits, readings, group work, participation
 200 points quizzes
 100 points Moodle
 150 points midterm exam
 150 points final exam
 200 points project

1,000-900	A
899-800	B
799-700	C
699-600	D
Below 600	F

Class Schedule

date	in class	homework
8/18	Course Overview: Syllabus, Assignments, Texts, form 5 groups, intro to William Shakespeare, Shakespearean English (modern English)	read act one of <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
8/20	discuss reading, view video clip	complete <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , groups outline assigned acts, read <i>Simply Shakespeare</i> pages 1-45
8/25	Much Ado group plot overviews and discussion	read <i>Simply Shakespeare</i> 46-65, identify puns in the play
8/27	Shakespeare's wit in Much Ado, list and discuss puns, submit project plan and date	read introduction to <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , work on skits
9/1	holiday	read act one of <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> , read <i>Simply Shakespeare</i> 66-112
9/3	student performances, video discuss reading, view video clip	complete reading of <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> , groups outline assigned acts
9/8	Shrew group plot overviews and discussion	read <i>Simply Shakespeare</i> 114-149
9/10	Shrew discussion, pun list	work on skits
9/15	student performances, gender role discussion	read act one of <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
9/17	Kate's final speech: tamed or triumphant? video clips	complete reading of <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , groups outline assigned acts
9/22	group-led plot overview of MND, discussion	review <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
9/24	MND discussion, role of the pastoral in comedy	work on skits
9/29	student performances, nobles/peasants	review all reading
10/1	MND the two courts, video clips	review all reading, handouts, postings, etc
10/6	review from midterm exam, CHANGE GROUPS for second half of the semester	midterm review
10/8	Midterm Exam	read <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , groups outline assigned

		acts
10/13	group led plot overview, discussion, view video clip	review <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
10/15	Merchant discussion, justice	work on skits
10/20	student performances	read <i>The Tempest</i>
10/22	student performances, presentations	read <i>The Tempest</i>
10/27	presentations	complete plot outlines for <i>The Tempest</i>
10/29	group led plot overview and discussion of <i>The Tempest</i> , video clip	review <i>Tempest</i>
11/3	discussion Tempest: magic, mystery and misconceptions	work on skits
11/5	student performances, skits, soliloquies	work on skits
11/10	student performances, video clip	work on skits
11/12	combining tragedy with comedy	
11/17	presentations	
11/19	presentations	review all reading for final, thematic connections
12/1	review for final	review all reading for final, thematic connections
12/8	Student-led review and overview of course	final review

Final Exam Date TBA

Academic Accommodations:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or visit his office on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC E-mail System:

The SNC e-mail system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college e-mail accounts daily during the school year. Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having e-mail redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC e-mail account.

Faculty/Student Honor Code:

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty,

administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences for Violating the Honor Code:

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the honor code and consequences for violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes cheating, plagiarism and fabrication, and refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty.

Violations of the honor code become part of a student's academic record.

SNC's Disciplinary Sanctions for Honor Code Violations:

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

The SNC Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability. Core themes are Liberal Arts, Entrepreneurial Thinking, Professional Preparedness and Sustainability.