

ENGL 3510 - Shakespeare

Overall English Department Mission Statement

The English Department at Dixie State College strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays.

Emphasis Mission Statement (Literature)

Our literature courses seek to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the unique value of literary expression as an aesthetic form that challenges the senses, the intellect, and the imagination. Students also learn to appreciate the complex relationship between the aesthetic and intellectual aspects of literature and the culture and time in which it was produced.

Course Description

Required of English majors pursuing an emphasis in Literary Studies or English Education, and open to other interested students. Students can expect to do close readings of at least six plays and to study such secondary materials as literary criticism, historical background, and film and theatrical representations of the plays. As perhaps the single most important cultural icon in our society, Shakespeare also offers an excellent opportunity to look at the nature of literary reputations, national competitiveness in cultures, and the shifting map of such issues over time. Students will learn to incorporate these materials into their own class discussions and will also produce papers and take exams that reflect their new knowledge. Prerequisite: ENGL 2010 (Grade C or higher).
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Course Goals:

Goals to be reached in this course:

- To do close readings of at least six of Shakespeare's plays.
- Study secondary material such as literary criticism, the historical background, and film and theatrical interpretations of Shakespeare's plays.
- Explore the issues of literary reputations and national competitiveness through the study of Shakespeare's influence on world cultures.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will have improved their ability to:

- Incorporate literary criticism, historical background, and analysis of film and stage productions of Shakespeare's works into class discussions.
- Understand and enjoy Shakespeare's language and style.
- Understand the influence of Shakespeare's works on modern world cultures.

Methods of Assessment:

Formative Assessment Methods

Four tests, which will contain short and long essay questions and cover the material from the texts as well as issues that come up during class discussions.

Research Essay: (6 pages). This essay will include scholarly sources and demonstrate knowledge of literary critical methods. Possible range of topics for this essay will be determined in class discussions, and students will be given at least one class day for essay preparation.

Summative Assessment Methods

Enlightenment Essay: Students will be encouraged to keep a record of their experiences and thoughts in the class. Their essays will be based on that record and should include something of their classroom experiences, responses to the books they are reading for the class, and perhaps even preparations for the tests. The essay should say something about how this class has affected the students, what they've learned, and how they've changed (if they have). Everything should relate directly to the class. This essay is more open ended than the Research Essay and will allow for a freer flow of ideas and a more open expression of opinions.

Value-Added Assessment Method

Pre/Post Test: Students will take a course-specific pre- and post-test, to assess the ways in which their learning has increased during the semester. This will be a multiple-choice (scantron) test.