

# CAMOSUN COLLEGE

## ENGLISH 284 - Shakespeare Fall 2002

**Dr. J. Sexton Web Page:** [www.camosun.bc.ca/~sexton](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/~sexton)

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Office Hours:

Tuesday, Friday 10:15-11:30 or by appointment

### **Catalogue Description:**

Close study of six Shakespeare plays: three tragedies, one comedy, one history and one romance. The course will use relevant film versions and other productions via stage or videotape. Emphasis will be on the dramatist's art, especially character, theme, imagery, and structure.

Offered:	September 2002
Credit:	3
In-Class Workload:	3 lecture
Out-of-Class Workload:	4-6
Prerequisites:	ENGL 150 and one other 100-level English course

### **Underlying Assumptions:**

The most valuable work on any Shakespeare text is close study of each line and speech. Paraphrase of difficult passages is the surest way of gaining an adequate understanding, paying particular attention to the exact meaning of the words and phrases, examining imagery carefully and ensuring that the argument is thoroughly grasped. Shakespeare's historical development will receive little attention: the emphasis is new critical, textual.

### **Course Description:**

Intellectual background, (e.g., Elizabethan world picture) and biographical material will be given, but most attention will be given to the plays as dramatic art. Thus lecture and discussion will center on imagery, theme, character, structure. After reading *Hamlet*, for example, students should have a rudimentary knowledge of such intellectual background as the role of the monarch and his position in a hierarchically conceived universe, patterns of imagery such as poison, disease, etc., recognize chief sources of conflict, the chief traits of such characters as Horatio, Claudius, and their thematic significance.

The student will also be expected to discuss concretely the characteristics of tragedy, comedy and history, and to be able to explicate sample speeches, relating them to the artistic concerns of the play.

**Evaluation:**

Class Grade (participation, quizzes)	20%
In-class essay revised at home	20%
Mid-Term Exam with 1 essay	20%
Final Exam with 2 essays	40%

**Grades:**

A+ 95 - 100%	B- 70 - 74%
A 90 - 94%	C+ 65 - 69%
A- 85 - 89%	C 60 - 64%
B+ 80 - 84%	D 50 - 59%
B 75 - 79%	F < 50%

**Texts:**

Revised Signet paperback editions of *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Henry IV, 1*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night*.

**Sample Specific Learning Objectives for One of the 6 Plays:**

After reading the play, completing the self-test, attending lectures, and viewing the Camosun College Library videotape of the BBC dramatization, you should be able to:

1. Determine the number of plots in *Twelfth Night*. Describe how they relate to each other dramatically and thematically.
2. The characters often call one another "fools" or "madmen" and do, in fact, exhibit behavior ranging from folly and madness to clarity and control. Describe and rank each character from least to most foolish and mad.
3. Identify those characters who grow during the course of the play and those who do not, and describe what is learned by those who grow.
4. Describe the various attitudes toward love expressed or represented by the characters of the play.
5. Discuss the appropriateness of the title and subtitle in view of the fact that *Twelfth Night* is neither celebrated nor mentioned in the play.
6. Identify how the differing levels of the characters' awareness of events contribute to the comic effects of the play.
7. Relate the many songs to overall themes of the play.
8. Identify the relevant portions of the Elizabethan playhouse.

## Class Schedule - ENGL 284

	TUESDAY		FRIDAY	
Week 1	Sept. 3	<i>Hamlet</i>	Sept. 6	<i>Hamlet</i>
Week 2	Sept. 10	<i>Hamlet</i>	Sept. 13	<i>Hamlet</i>
Week 3	Sept. 17	<i>Hamlet</i>	Sept. 20	In-class essay
Week 4	Sept. 24	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Sept. 27	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
Week 5	Oct. 1	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Oct. 4	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
Week 6	Oct. 8	<i>1 Henry IV</i>	Oct. 11	<i>1 Henry IV</i>
Week 7	Oct. 15	<i>1 Henry IV</i>	Oct. 18	<b><i>1 Henry</i>, review for midterm exam</b>
Week 8	Oct. 22	MIDTERM	Oct. 25	<i>King Lear</i>
Week 9	Oct. 29	<i>King Lear</i>	Nov. 1	<i>King Lear</i>
Week 10	Nov. 5	<i>King Lear</i>	Nov. 8	<i>Othello</i>
Week 11	Nov. 12	<i>Othello</i>	Nov. 15	<i>Othello</i>
Week 12	Nov. 19	<i>Othello</i>	Nov. 22	<i>Othello</i>
Week 13	Nov. 26	<i>Tempest</i>	Nov. 29	<i>Tempest</i>
Week 14	Dec. 3	<i>Tempest</i>	Dec. 6	<i>Tempest</i> <b>review for final</b>