

# Shakespeare: Kings and Comedy

LIT 3320 • FALL 2005 • T/TR 11:00-12:15 • JO 3.516

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Kelli Marshall

**OFFICE:** JO 5.426; 972-883-2063 (Please e-mail first).

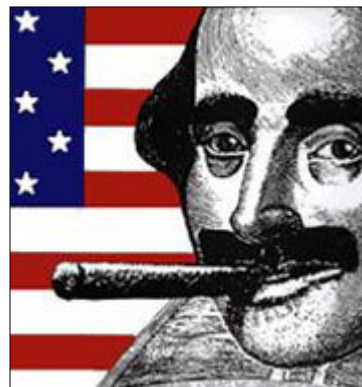
**E-MAIL:** [kmarshal@utdallas.edu](mailto:kmarshal@utdallas.edu) (Note: only one "L" in email address).

**WEB:** [www.utdallas.edu/~kmarshal/courses/shak/fall05](http://www.utdallas.edu/~kmarshal/courses/shak/fall05)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tues. 1:30-3:15 PM, or by appt.

**eOFFICE HOURS:** Wed. 9:00-10:00 AM, or by appt.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through close readings, interdisciplinary assignments, a live theatrical performance, and film screenings, LIT 3320 will consider several of Shakespeare's comedy and history plays: *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Richard III*, and *Henry V*. *Kings and Comedy* will also examine Shakespeare's surroundings in Elizabethan England as well as our society's fascination with the Bard. NOTE: A course on the playwright's tragedies and romances will be offered in the spring of 2006.

## COURSE ASSUMPTIONS

LIT 3320 has been designed with the following set of assumptions in mind. If you fit the profile below and are willing to make the commitment, you should find the course challenging but manageable. If not, you might think carefully about how you will work this course (along with its expectations and requirements) into your existing schedule.

1. Students are *not* required to have any prior knowledge of Shakespeare, his milieu, or any theatrical or cinematic performances of Shakespeare's works.
2. Students have access to a computer with Internet access, email access, and a printer.
3. Students attend class regularly and participate in class. (Students whose personal schedules prevent on-time arrivals and early departures are encouraged to find a more appropriately scheduled course.)
4. Students keep up with the readings and assignments.
5. Students will be patient with, open-minded about, and respectful of the written and visual texts they encounter this semester.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- ***The Complete Works of William Shakespeare***, 5th edition, David Bevington, ed. (other editions and/or versions of *The Complete Works* are acceptable as long as they have well-documented act, scene, and line numbers).
- **Online sources and handouts** listed on course Web site.

NOTE: Although we are concentrating primarily on the six plays listed above, we will also look at some of Shakespeare's other works, characters, and themes to gain a more comprehensive view of the playwright and his style. So please purchase *The Complete Works* rather than individual copies of the plays/sonnets so that you may browse his other texts with ease. (If you are thinking about taking the spring Shakespeare course, this textbook will be used as well.)

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Disability Services provides for the special needs of students with disabilities. Students are urged to make their needs known to Disability Services and their professors as soon as the semester begins. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Student Union, (972) 883-2070.

## CLASSROOM, EMAIL, AND WEBCT COURTESY

Latecomers and Computer Users: The **back row of the classroom** is reserved for **tardy students** and those who wish to use a **laptop computer**. If you arrive after class has begun, please enter from the back of the classroom and sit on the back row. If you use a computer due to a disability and need to sit near the front of the classroom, see Dr. Marshall at the beginning of the semester. Computer-users, please keep the following in mind: the classroom is for learning, discussing, and deliberating--not instant messaging, answering email, and/or playing computer games.

Beebers, PDAs, and Cell Phones: Unless you or your immediate family members are expecting an emergency (i.e., a birth, a babysitter's call, a death), please **turn off all beepers, PDAs, and/or cell phones** before entering the classroom. If you are expecting an emergency, notify Dr. Marshall *before* class begins.

Excess Talking: If students persistently engage in conversation while other students are talking or while the professor is talking, they will be asked to move. Unnecessary talking and discourteous behavior are not tolerated in the classroom.

Email and WebCT: Your email messages say as much about you (and your intellect!) as your speech and your written assignments. To this end, please remember email etiquette when emailing Dr. Marshall *and* your classmates:

- always address the person to whom you are speaking (e.g., "Dr. Marshall, I have a question...");
- type with proper punctuation and capitalization (no all-lowercase emails!);
- always sign your name, even if it is just a quick reply;
- proofread your emails before you hit "send."

Please send all questions, concerns, etc. to my UTD email account; the WebCT email function should only be used for submitting electronic copies of your written assignments (see "Assignments" on page 3). I only check WebCT when assignments are due.

Finally, note that all electronic correspondence between UTD students and faculty should be transmitted from UTD email accounts. To activate or maintain your free computer account and/or to set email forwarding options, go to <http://netid.utdallas.edu>.

## GRADING POLICIES

*All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Every assignment has been provided for you well in advance, so there really is no excuse for late work. Computer, disc, or printer problems are NOT acceptable excuses for unfinished assignments, so make sure you allow enough time before the assignment is due to take care of any technical problems that might arise. (FedExKinko's is always open...) While LIT 3320 students are not graded on attendance, they would be wise to note that some of the in-class films--on which assignments may be based--are not always readily available to students.*

Assignments	
Participation	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Final Project	25%

All undergraduate grades will be given on a 10-point scale, with pluses and minuses: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = 59-below.

Late work will be accepted, but there will be a 10-point deduction for each day the paper is late.


Make-up exams will only be given to students with *valid reasons* for missing class (bereavement, serious illness, scheduled medical procedure, court hearing). Students must validate their absence with written information from their doctor, lawyer, etc.; letters from parents are not acceptable. If a student misses an exam and does not have the required information, he/she will earn a zero for the exam. One time for make-up exams will be scheduled, and a different (more difficult) test will be administered.


One last note: grades in this course are earned, not given. An A paper, which is what I hope most students are striving for in this course, contains not only a sound argument and sufficient evidence, but also proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Superior grades are not earned on content alone. So if you think you may have trouble with any or all of the above, it might be wise to make use of Dr. Marshall's office hours and/or UTD's Writing Center.


For more information on what constitutes a grade of A, B, C, etc., see *Grading Criteria for Written Assignments* on the course Web site: [http://www.utdallas.edu/~kmarshall/courses/essay\\_writing/grading\\_criteria.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/~kmarshall/courses/essay_writing/grading_criteria.htm).


## ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments for *Kings and Comedy* correspond to the three course goals: to explore Shakespeare's comedies and histories, to become familiar with Elizabethan history and culture, and to investigate Shakespeare's place in a postmodern world.


 **Shakespeare Online:** These eight out-of-class assignments, due periodically throughout the semester, explore Shakespeare's environment. Shakespeare Online exercises, located on the course site, may be submitted for participation points only on the day that they are due.

 **Exams:** The *midterm exam* (due 6-Oct) and the *final exam* (due 29-Nov) are take-home exams that primarily assess students' knowledge of the plays; they also pose questions about class discussion and Shakespeare's milieu. Students will have one week to complete the exam, the majority of which is essay format. (Example questions are on the class Web site).

 **Shakespeare Select:** This project looks at the way Shakespeare is represented in today's world. Students may select from the following five choices: they may write a traditional research paper, analyze a scene from a Shakespeare film not screened in class, stage a theatrical performance, create a Shakespeare Web site, or draw up lesson plans on one of Shakespeare's plays. Each of these options will be detailed on the course Web site later on in the semester. Dr. Marshall must approve all topics: an email proposal (worth 5 participation points) is due by the beginning of class on 20-Oct.

 **Participation:** Students may earn a total of 100 participation points. No more than 100 points may be earned, and students may earn no more than 5 points in one class. Participation assignments will be graded as follows: 5 points, superior; 4 points, good; 3 points, adequate; 2 points, deficient; 1 point, failing. Points may be earned by

- submitting any or all of the Shakespeare Online assignments; these *do not* have to be typed (40 points possible);
- completing in-class involvement opportunities (40 points possible);
- emailing a proposal for the Shakespeare Select project (5 points possible);
- attending Dallas Shakespeare's performance of *Twelfth Night*—details and directions will be posted online later this semester (5 points possible);
- handing in a course-related article along with a 3-to-5-sentence summary explaining the article's significance to the course (maximum of three; 15 points possible).

 **Class Web Site:** once or twice per week students should access *Student Updates*, a page that offers reminders, helpful links, and any potential syllabus changes: [http://www.utdallas.edu/~kmarshal/courses/shak/fall05/student\\_updates.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/~kmarshal/courses/shak/fall05/student_updates.htm).

NOTE: **All exams and essays should be submitted in duplicate**--one copy to WebCT saved as a file with your last name and the assignment (e.g., JonesMidterm.doc), the other (a double-spaced hard copy) to Dr. Marshall at the beginning of class. See next page for directions on submitting work to WebCT and the Checklist for Written Assignments!

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty involves many levels, but the one that I would like to emphasize in a class that requires take-home exams is *plagiarism*, or presenting another person's work as your own *whether you mean to or not*.

Plagiarism is a serious offense that will not be tolerated in this classroom or university (See UTD's Web site for more details: <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/slife/dishonesty.html>). If a student plagiarizes, he/she may receive a failing grade in this course and disciplinary actions with the Dean of Students, the latter of which typically remain on the student's records even after graduation.

THE GOOD NEWS?! Plagiarism is avoidable! **Document all sources: direct quotations, paraphrases, summaries, and/or any ideas that are not your own. This includes information from any WEB SITE, DVD EXTRAS, AND FILM OR THEATRE REVIEWS. IF THE INFORMATION DID NOT COME OUT OF YOUR OWN BRAIN OR FROM CLASS DISCUSSION, DOCUMENT IT!** Do not jeopardize your entire academic career because you fail to (or choose not to) credit a source!! If you are uncertain about any type of documentation, refer to online MLA documentation: [www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities/intext.html](http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities/intext.html). If you are still having trouble, as always, please contact the professor.

## IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

2-Sept	Last Day to drop a class without a "W"	24/25-Nov	Thanksgiving holiday
5-Sept	Labor Day holiday	28-Nov	Last Day of classes
20-Oct	Undergraduates last day to withdraw with WP/WF	29-Nov-5-Dec	Final Exams for Full-Term Session
		7-Dec	Grades available online

## CLASS CALENDAR

\*Assignments are listed by their due date.

### SCHOLARLY SHAKESPEARE: LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

- WEEK 1 18-Aug **Introduction and *Love's Labour's Lost* (Act 1.1)**
- WEEK 2 23-Aug **Assist Me, Some Extemporal God of Rhyme: Sonnets Needed, ASAP!**  
READING: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Act 1.2 – 3.1)
- 25-Aug **Be So Good As Read Me This Letter: Letters Galore in This, Act Four**  
ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Educating Shakespeare  
READING: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Act 4)
- WEEK 3 30-Aug **Be Masked; the Maskers Come: Masking and Masquerading**  
READING: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Act 5.1 – Act 5.2.265)
- 1-Sept **You That Way; We This Way: Traditional Comedic Endings?**  
ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Elizabethan Intellectual Background  
READING: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Act 5.2.266 – end)

### FEISTY MAIDS, DUBIOUS SOLDIERS, AND FOOLISH COPS: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

- WEEK 4 6-Sept **I Noted Her Not: Noting and Nothing in *Much Ado***  
READING: *Much Ado about Nothing* (Act 1)
- 8-Sept **Fair Hero Is Won: Winning Love Lawfully and Underhandedly**  
READING: *Much Ado about Nothing* (Act 2 – Act 3.1)
- WEEK 5 13-Sept **Playing Tricks with Love**  
ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Adapting Shakespeare  
READING: *Much Ado about Nothing* (Act 3.2 – Act 4.1)
- 15-Sept **Unveiling Heros and Unraveling Plots**  
READING: *Much Ado about Nothing* (Act 4.2 – end)

### OUTCASTS OF ENGLAND: THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

- WEEK 6 20-Sept **I'll Seal to Such a Bond: Treacherous Moneylending in Venice**  
ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Shakespeare's Outsiders  
READING: *The Merchant of Venice* (Act 1 – Act 2.1)
- 22-Sept **Look to My House: A Daughter's Revenge and Deceit**  
READING: *The Merchant of Venice* (Act 2.2 – Act 2.9)
- WEEK 7 27-Sept **Marriage via Treasure Chests?**  
READING: *The Merchant of Venice* (Act 3)
- 29-Sept **Then Must the Jew Be Merciful: Mercy via Christianity?** .....\*Midterm distributed.  
READING: *The Merchant of Venice* (Acts 4 and 5)

- WEEK 8 4-Oct **Midterm Exam--No Class**

### GENDER-BENDING, CROSS-DRESSING, AND YELLOW TIGHTS? TWELFTH NIGHT

- 6-Oct **I Swear I Am Not That I Play: Well, Who Are You Then, Cesario?** .....\*Midterm due.  
ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Gender and Sexuality  
READING: *Twelfth Night* (Act 1)
- WEEK 9 11-Oct **Enter Maria [with a Letter]: Fooling the Foolish Malvolio**  
READING: *Twelfth Night* (Act 2)
- 13-Oct **Shakespeare Festival of Dallas--No Class**  
Mandatory attendance to a performance of *Twelfth Night*. Addison Arts and Events District.  
Meet at (or before) 7:45 PM. \$7.00 donation requested.
- WEEK 10 18-Oct **I Am Not What I Am: Yes, We Know, But Why Doesn't Orsino?!**  
ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Experiencing Elizabethan Theatre  
READING: *Twelfth Night* (Act 3)
- 20-Oct **Righting All Wrongs (Except Those Done to Malvolio)?** .....\*Email Proposal due.  
READING: *Twelfth Night* (Acts 4 and 5)

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**SHAKESPEARE'S GREATEST VILLAIN? *RICHARD III***

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WEEK 11	25-Oct	<b>Secret Mischiefs Set Abroach: Richard Gets Started</b> ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Kings and Their Bodies READING: <i>Richard III</i> (Act 1 – Act 1.3)
	27-Oct	<b>A Bloody Dead! First and Second Murderers All Around</b> READING: <i>Richard III</i> (Act 1.4 – Act 3.1)
WEEK 12	1-Nov	<b>Here Is the Head of That Ignoble Traitor: Richard Keeps Going...and Going</b> READING: <i>Richard III</i> (Act 3.2 – Act 4.3)
	3-Nov	<b>My Kingdom for a Horse: Richard, Slowing Down</b> ..... Shakespeare Select Project due. READING: <i>Richard III</i> (Act 4.4 – end)

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***HENRY V***

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WEEK 13	8-Nov	<b>All the Youth of England Are on Fire: England at War</b> READING: <i>Henry V</i> (Act 1 – Act 2.1)
	10-Nov	<b>Once More Unto the Breach! Scaling the Gates of Harfleur</b> READING: <i>Henry V</i> (Act 2.2 – Act 3.3)
WEEK 14	15-Nov	<b>A Little Touch of Harry in the Night: The King Gets Around?</b> READING: <i>Henry V</i> (Act 3.4 – Act 4.2)
	17-Nov	<b>Combine Your Hearts in One: Victory in War, Conquest in Marriage</b> READING: <i>Henry V</i> (Act 4.3 – end)
WEEK 15	22-Nov	<b>Shakespeare: Subject to Change (Course Wrap-Up)</b> ..... *Pick up Final Exam. ONLINE SHAKESPEARE: Subject to Change.
	24-Nov	Thanksgiving Break
WEEK 16	29-Nov	<b>Final Exam Due in Dr. Marshall's office by noon.</b>

\*The class calendar is subject to change: if a change occurs, it will be announced in class and posted on the course Web site. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of such changes.

\*In case you lose this syllabus, an extra copy may be printed from the course Web site.

## ACCESSING WEBCT AND YOUR NET ID:

To find out your UTD Net ID and create a password, go to <http://netid.utdallas.edu>.

To log on to WebCT, go to <http://webct.utdallas.edu> and enter your Net ID name and password. To submit your papers via WebCT, follow the directions below:

- Click on the link to your class: LIT 3320.
- There should be three links on the LIT 3320 Homepage: *Submit Assignments*, *LIT 3320 Homepage*, and *Chat*. The *LIT 3320 Homepage* is a link to your class Web site, and the *Chat* link is there in case you would like to chat "in real-time" with other students from your class.
- To submit papers, click *Submit Assignments* (This takes you to WebCT's email function; please do not confuse this with regular email). Click "Compose Message." In the "Send To" box, click "Browse." A new window will pop up; click on "Kelli Marshall." For subject, type the name of the paper assignment. Write a brief message. Under the "Attachments" box, click "Browse." Find your paper on your hard drive, and then attach it. **Be sure to click "Attach File" before you send.**

\*\* If WebCT is not functioning properly, please email your paper to [kmarshal@utdallas.edu](mailto:kmarshal@utdallas.edu) so that it is not late.

## Checklist for Written Assignments

Points WILL BE DEDUCTED from your papers if they do not fit these criteria!!

Yes, these criteria are picky! Yes, they may seem ridiculous to you! And, yes, you may get upset if points are deducted from your papers because you overlooked one of the items listed below!

**BUT** there are reasons that these conditions exist: one is that a specific format alleviates many potential problems that could occur when nearly 250 students hand in written work. The most important reason, however, is that by following these conditions you will become a more careful and more proficient writer who will be extremely proud of his/her hard work!!

- ✓ All **papers** should be **submitted in duplicate before the start of class**--one copy to WebCT saved as a file with your last name and the assignment (e.g., JonesMidterm.doc), the other (a double-spaced hard copy) to Dr. Marshall at the beginning of class.
- ✓ All work should be **typed** and **double spaced** (12-font, Times New Roman) with **1" margins**.
- ✓ The following should be typed at the **left-hand margin on the first page**:  
Student's name  
Instructor's name  
Course and section  
Date
- ✓ All work should include a **catchy title in the center of the page** that is *not* underlined, italicized, or in boldface, e.g., Our O'erhasty Marriage: Gertrude, Wedlock, and Adultery in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.
- ✓ All hard copies should be **stapled** (not paper-clipped!) **with no cover page**.
- ✓ Paragraphs should be **indented**, and there should be **no blank spaces** between them.
- ✓ ALL papers should include a **clearly stated, arguable thesis** that may be **supported with evidence**, e.g., "In this paper, I will argue that...."
- ✓ **Titles of novels, magazines, newspapers, television shows, and films** should be underlined or *italicized* (Pick one).
- ✓ **Gender-specific language** should be omitted.
- ✓ Avoid **elementary words** (very, a lot, good, bad, really, thing) and an excess of **contractions** (can't = cannot; don't = do not).
- ✓ You are welcome to use first person (I, we) and third person (he, she, they), but **avoid second person** (you, your, yourselves).
- ✓ Unless you are from the U.K. (!), all **periods and commas** should be **placed inside quotation marks**, e.g., "He likes to talk about football," she said, "especially when the Super Bowl is coming up."