



## Spring 2016 -- ENGL 4188-01W: Shakespeare

T/Th 9:30-10:50 am PAFF 307

Dr. Meg Pearson

Email: [megp@westga.edu](mailto:megp@westga.edu)

Office: TLC 2234

Office Hours: T/Th 8:30-9:30 am, 12-2 pm, and by appointment<sup>1</sup>

Shakespeare wonders about love in his poetry and his drama: how love could be sexy, naïve, violent, or doomed. This course will explore the ways in which Shakespeare considers the poetic clichés of love and its realities, both the beautiful and the sordid. Beginning with the sonnets and the narrative poems including *The Rape of Lucrece*, we will trace the various manifestations of love through tragedy and comedy alike, analyzing the depictions of couples including Beatrice and Benedict, Othello and Desdemona (and Iago?), and Venus and Adonis.

**COURSE GOALS:** <http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/fr/CourseGuid/4188.html>

### TEXTS:

- A *Complete Shakespeare* by any of the major scholarly publishers—Riverside, Oxford, Pelican, Longman, Norton—will do just fine. The text must have critical introductions and footnotes, or it's not a text for a college class. I have ordered the most recent Norton Shakespeare because it has all new critical introductions, some of which I will assign.
- We will use CourseDen for many readings and a great deal of out-of-class work. Please make sure you can access it easily and familiarize yourself with the site.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Short projects** (30% of final grade): Students will have the choice of *either* writing two 500-750 word analytical responses to the course readings (about 2-3 pages each) OR writing one short paper and doing one creative project. These will be 15% each:

- The paper (500-750 words) requires you to analyze part of a text from class. They are to be careful readings – almost dissections – of passages that you feel are important to

---

<sup>1</sup> My administrative duties will sometimes take precedence over office hours. However, if you make an appointment to see me or tell me you're coming by, I will ALWAYS be there. Thanks for understanding if I'm not always there if you drop in.

look at closely. Each close reading will make a claim about how a certain line or passage or poem should be understood, and then use careful analysis of the text to prove that claim.

- The creative project can take several forms, including a filmed recitation and explication of a passage, a staging of a scene or part of a scene, a musical rendition of a sonnet with associated rationale, or a modernization of part of a play (written or filmed) with rationale. The creative project may be a small group project, but you should choose your group very wisely indeed as you will all receive the same grade.

**Analytical Essay** (30% of final grade): Each of you will write a seven-eight page (1750-2000 words) critical analysis paper on a topic of your own choosing related to one of the texts on this syllabus; alternately students may compare two texts or authors from the reading list. You will submit a one to two page proposal (see syllabus for dates) introducing the topic and describing the major points you think your essay will use to elaborate that topic. Your paper should not just reiterate subjects or ideas that we have discussed in class. Rather, use class discussions, online discussions, and your reading to find and define your own niche in the course material. As a formal writing assignment, your paper must argue a specific thesis and support that thesis with clearly organized paragraphs containing appropriate examples and textual analysis. Your writing must be free of grammatical errors and should demonstrate stylistic clarity. Formal papers must document their sources using MLA style citations and notes. Further details about this assignment will be discussed and distributed in class. We will workshop these essays the last week of class. See syllabus for due dates.

**Final Exam** (15% of final grade): There will be a cumulative final exam covering the entire semester.

**Class participation/Online Work/Homework** (25% of final grade):

- First, come to class every day. Second, come to class having read all the assigned material. Third, come to class ready and willing to discuss the texts you've read and to engage with your colleagues and your instructor in a mature manner. I will quiz you from time to time to make sure you're involved with all three.
- There will be online discussions for each play and poem on CourseDen. I will offer discussion questions and prompts for you to consider and respond to, although you are most welcome to ask your own questions there, too! This will be a great place to follow-up on things we didn't get to in class or didn't have a chance to fully discuss. I will be present and occasionally a participant when anyone has questions.
  - For each text's discussion module, you will respond 1) to my prompt or question; 2) to another student's reply or question; and 3) post your own comment or question. That's three interactions per text. I'll have a model discussion on CourseDen so you can see what "counts" as a response and what doesn't.
- PLEASE NOTE: One module of our course (our last play) will be entirely online! That means no in-person class meetings and a great deal of work in Discussions and through something like Blackboard Collaborate. Your participation will count a great deal indeed

during those two weeks, but it will count while you are potentially in your pajamas! I will give you details after Spring Break.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### Attendance and Tardiness:

You are expected to attend every class session regularly. What we cover in class is what you need to know. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student for an explanation of what was covered. I offer you 4 absences to do with as you like—use them wisely for the inevitable "stuff" that will mess up your semester: illness, traffic, death in the family, etc. I do not care whether they are excused or not. If you miss 5 classes for whatever reason, you will not pass this class.

I dislike late arrivals; they are distracting. If you come in late more than twice, I'll start counting them as absences.

### Deadlines and Late Papers:

The short papers and projects and the final paper will be due online via Course Den (or via email in case of server trouble) at a deadline established on the syllabus and will be graded via turnitin.com. On class days, papers will be due before class. On non-class days, we will vote on a fair time. Every day that passes after the due date means that your work loses a letter grade. Extensions will be granted only in cases of verifiable emergency and/or if we have spoken about it beforehand.

### Formatting and Submitting Papers:

All take-home papers will have all the appropriate formatting required by MLA standards. All papers should be typed in a simple font in 10-12 point typeface. Always leave one-inch margins on each side. Papers are always to be double-spaced. Always cite your sources. And finally, always make a back-up copy of every paper you write. The departmental grading rubric for all upper-division written work may be found [here](#).

You will sometimes find it useful or necessary to email me your papers, such as when you would like me to look over your draft. Please send papers to [megp@westga.edu](mailto:megp@westga.edu) or, if that's not working, to [mfpearson@gmail.com](mailto:mfpearson@gmail.com). When I receive your email with an attachment, I will email you back right away to say "Got it." If you submit something to *me*, not to CourseDen, and I do not email you back within 24 hours, I have not received your paper. Resend it.

CourseDen will let you know when you've submitted, and you can double check it yourself. If you have having troubles with CourseDen, please get in touch with the University ITS people or Distance Learning (<http://uwgonline.westga.edu/>). I cannot help you, sadly. Plan for such technological failures. They are part of life.

### Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism or cheating, whether it is using the words and/or ideas of another without properly giving credit to the source(s), submitting someone else's work as your own, submitting your

own work completed for another class without my permission, collaborating on individual exercises, or otherwise violating the university's code of academic integrity will not be tolerated, and infractions will be severely punished. Familiarize yourself with the proper rules for citation for the English department (MLA) and the university's policy on academic dishonesty: <http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/Plagiarism/pladef.html>.

**If an idea does not come fully-sprung from your own skull, you need to figure out whose idea it is and give them credit through citation. If you do not do so, it is considered cheating. If you cheat in my class, you will receive an automatic F for the class. Do not test this. If you're ever in doubt, PLEASE ASK ME.**

#### Extra Help:

If you feel you need help or if you have any questions regarding the class, come by my office, 2234 in the TLC. I will be in my office and prepared to offer assistance during my office hours. If for some reason you are unable to see me during my office hours, we will arrange an alternative meeting time. **Contact me via email to set up an appointment.** Also, do not forget about the Writing Center where the instructors and staff work to assist writers at any point in the writing process. For more information or to make an appointment, e-mail the Writing Center at [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu) or call: 678-839-6513.

#### Contacting Me:

I am most easily tracked down using email: [megp@westga.edu](mailto:megp@westga.edu). (Please note that [mpearson@westga.edu](mailto:mpearson@westga.edu) is NOT ME.) You may also contact me using the email function in CourseDen, although I do not check that account regularly. Please e-mail me from your university account in order to make it easier to identify the sender of the e-mail and to avoid unnecessary security or virus risks.

#### Special Needs:

The University of West Georgia adheres to the Americans for Disabilities Act, known as ADA, which requires that all programs at the university be accessible to people with disabilities. If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation, please see me in my office at the beginning of the semester. If you have a disability that you have not yet registered through the Accessibility Services Office, please contact the **Counseling Center**:

Location: 123 Row Hall

Office Hours:

M-F 8am-5pm

Tel: 678-839-6428

Fax: 678-839-6429

E-mail: [counseling@westga.edu](mailto:counseling@westga.edu)

**COURSE SYLLABUS:**

NOTE: Have the *entire text* read completely by the first day it is listed unless told otherwise. We will do intensive work on various scenes and themes from there. Individual homework assignments and group work will be announced on a daily basis. This syllabus is subject to change; all changes will be announced in class and on CourseDen.

Tuesday	Thursday
1/12 Introductions (Open Drop ends at midnight on January 13 <sup>th</sup> !)	1/14 Sonnets 13, 15, 20, 23, 79, 87, 110, 111, 129, 130, 135, 138, 143 (Open Add ends at midnight on January 14 <sup>th</sup> !)
1/19 <i>Venus and Adonis</i> , ll. 1-612	1/21 <i>Venus and Adonis</i> , ll. 613-end
1/26 <i>Rape of Lucrece</i> , ll. 1-742	1/28 <i>Rape of Lucrece</i> , ll. 743-1855 READ: Critical Introduction in the Norton on Shakespeare's Theatre
2/2 <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	2/4 <i>Much Ado</i>
2/9 <i>Much Ado</i> <b>FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE</b>	2/11 <i>Much Ado</i>
2/16 <i>Othello</i>	2/18 <i>Othello</i>
2/23 <i>Othello</i>	2/25 <i>Othello</i>
3/1 <i>Twelfth Night</i>	3/3 <b>W DAY</b> <i>Twelfth Night</i>
3/8 <i>Twelfth Night</i>	3/10 <i>Twelfth Night</i> <b>SECOND SHORT PAPER/PROJECT DUE</b>
3/15 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	3/17 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>
3/22 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	3/24 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
3/29 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	3/31 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
4/5 ONLINE MODULE (4/5-4/14) <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	4/7 <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> <b>Final Paper Proposals Due via CourseDen</b>
4/12 <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	4/14 <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>

4/19 Draft Workshop of Final paper	4/21 Final Paper DUE on CourseDen by 9:30am Final Exam Review in Class Evaluations
4/26 Exam Week – No class	4/28 FINAL EXAM: 8:00-10:30 am