



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION

### COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2021

#### EN 2390 (A2, VC): Introduction to Shakespeare – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Anna Lapointe      **PHONE:** 780-539-2992  
**OFFICE:** C420      **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:00pm, or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** A reading of nine plays representing the range of Shakespeare's work.

**PREREQUISITE:** Six credits of junior English.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** All texts will be digital and available on MyClass. Students are welcome to use print copies if they wish for ease of use, but none have been ordered in the bookstore. (As long as your copy includes act, scene, line information, you should be fine.)

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- *The Tempest*
- *Richard III*
- Three plays to be selected by the class

**DELIVERY MODES:** lecture/discussion

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The course locates William Shakespeare's plays in their historic, cultural, and critical contexts. Students will read and critically analyze a series of Shakespeare's plays, and articulate their conclusions in verbal/written discussion as well as clear, structured academic essays.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate core ideas about the cultural context in which Shakespeare wrote
- Perform close readings of passages of specific plays
- Identify distinctive features of Elizabethan theatre
- Make connections between plays in terms of thematic and artistic patterns

- Verbally present knowledge of the plays studied in terms of content and comprehension, literary patterns, and significance

### TRANSFERABILITY:

UA\*, UC\*, UL, AU, CU, CUC, KUC, AF\*, GMU, CUC

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page: <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

### EVALUATIONS:

Participation (attendance and engagement in class discussions)	10%
Reflection papers (short papers on specific plays) 3 x 5%	15%
Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	25%
Exam (take home)	30%

### GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Readings must be completed **before** the class in which they are taken up. Please ensure you have the day's text available to you in class (either on paper or electronically). This schedule is subject to change. Alterations to the schedule will be posted on MyClass.

Sept 3 – introduction to the class

Sept 10 – William Shakespeare and the Elizabethan World

Sept 13 – Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre; intro to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Sept 17 – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Sept 20 – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
 Sept 24 – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
 Sept 27 – essay writing instruction  
 Oct 1 – *Richard III*; reflection paper 1 due  
 Oct 4 – *Richard III*  
 Oct 8 – *Richard III*  
 No classes the week of Oct 11-15 (fall break)  
 Oct 18 – first play chosen by class  
 Oct 22 – first play chosen by class  
 Oct 25 – first play chosen by class  
 Oct 29 – flex day; essay 1 due  
 Nov 1 – second play chosen by class; reflection paper 2 due  
 Nov 5 – second play chosen by class  
 Nov 8 – second play chosen by class  
 Nov 12 – flex day  
 Nov 15 – third play chosen by class  
 Nov 19 – third play chosen by class  
 Nov 22 – third play chosen by class  
 Nov 26 – *The Tempest*; reflection paper 3 due  
 Nov 29 – *The Tempest*  
 Dec 3 – *The Tempest*; essay 2 due  
 Dec 6 – review for exam

Final exam date to be announced. Final exam will be a take-home exam due on the exam date/time.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class during class times.
  - If your absence is for a legitimate reason (internet disruption, illness, family crisis), **let the instructor know by e-mail**. In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.
- **Participation & Engagement:** This class requires your active engagement. Most class sessions will involve discussion of the plays, and student participation in these discussions is crucial to the success of the class and to your individual grade (15% of the final grade). Some discussions may require written contributions. (You will be notified in advance.) You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to class dialogue.
  - In order to participate effectively, you should have the day's reading completed **before class begins**. This will allow you to comment, answer questions, and ask questions of your own.

- Basic reading comprehension is assumed at this level, and students are encouraged to look up unfamiliar terms in the course of their reading to ensure that they grasp the texts' meanings. However, the unfamiliarity of Elizabethan English may occasionally require instructor clarification!
  - Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up. Ask away!
  - You will need a copy of the play being studied in that class available to you in class. Your copy can be virtual or physical, but you need to be able to look up passages as we go!
  - The goal of this class is to create a safe environment in which we examine both texts and our own ideas about them. Discomfort can be part of the learning process. However, if the discomfort starts to turn to distress, please take care of yourself. You can withdraw from an activity or discussion if necessary.
- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to MyClass. If **after** you have gone through these materials you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to clarify.
  - **Assignment Submission:** Assignments are due at 4:00pm Alberta time on the due date. At 4:01pm, they become late, so you might as well take a few hours and polish your work to offset the penalty.
    - Assignments must be submitted via MyClass to the relevant assignment dropbox. Assignments must be in pdf format. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted, and will be subject to late penalties. If the dropbox for some reason will not give you access, e-mail your completed assignment to the instructor to prove that you have completed it, then submit on MyClass when the issue has been resolved.
  - **Late Papers:** Late papers are penalized at the rate of 1% per day, to a maximum deduction of 10% (one letter grade). Late papers will be accepted until December 9, 2021, at 4:00pm Alberta time. Starting at 4:01pm on that day, no more late assignments will be accepted, and the missing assignments will receive grades of 0%.
  - **Extensions:** Students must contact the instructor directly regarding extensions. I grant extensions for the following reasons: technological failure (may be used only once), sick children/family crisis, illness or injury of student (with doctor's note), alien abduction (documentation required). Extensions are not open-ended; rather, we will agree on a new deadline, after which late penalties apply.
    - **Extensions are not given because of workload.** Due dates across classes tend to come in clusters. Plan ahead and be prepared to deal with the schedule.
  - **"Office" Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline. The default format for office hours this term is Zoom. During the time of office hours, I will sit in the Zoom office hours room (<https://gprc.zoom.us/j/3323252345> -- this link is also on the MyClass page under "Office Hours") and meet with students one-on-one as they arrive.

- You don't need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.
  - Students logging in will initially be placed in a "waiting room" and admitted to the meeting once the current student has finished.
  - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don't feel you're imposing.
  - Office hours cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I'll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I'm better.
  - If you make an appointment to meet with me outside of regular office hours, please actually attend that meeting, or notify me that you won't be able to make it, so I'm not left humming to myself on the Internet.
- **Electronics in the Classroom:** I permit the use of electronic devices (laptop computers, tablets, and phones) in the classroom for note-taking and document-access purposes. **Please turn off all sound-generating functions.**
    - If you do not choose to print the readings posted on MyClass (if you do, bring them to class!), please ensure that you can access these documents electronically during class. I cannot reliably determine whether students are using their devices for class-related purposes. If you choose to use your device for non-class purposes (such as texting and social media), please be aware that those activities actually damage the learning experience of those around you. Thus, if you absolutely must text in class, please sit in the back so as to distract as few of your classmates as possible.
    - If your phone rings in class, the instructor may dance wildly to your ringtone. Be warned.
  - **Pre-Assessments:** Students often request that I "look over" an assignment before it is due and offer feedback at that point. I regret that I cannot do this, simply because of the time commitment involved, and the number of students I teach.
    - However, I am always pleased to review your thesis statement, and even to review several drafts of it. Please send your thesis statement for feedback by email, pasted into the body of the e-mail.
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  - **Preferred Names & Pronouns:** At the course's outset, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and used your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.)
    - If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns.
    - All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.
    - If your details change in the course of the term, please let me know and I will adjust my records and the way that I address you.
  - **Children, Animals, & Zoom Etiquette:** Some of you may be parenting as you take this class. Please let me know, so that I can make a note of it. (Children create their own complications, and I will create flexibility for parents as needed.)

- While on Zoom, if you're not speaking, please mute your microphone.
  - If your children are in the room with you on Zoom, that's fine, though you should be aware that the course will deal with adult language and topics.
  - If your pets appear on Zoom, your instructor would like to see and admire them.
  - Please wear clothes while on Zoom.
  - If your child-care arrangements fail and you would still like to attend class in person, you are welcome to bring your child with you to class, as long as the child is reasonably quiet. (Reasonably. Some noise is inevitable, and that's okay.) If the child becomes disruptive or distressed and you need to leave, you will not be penalized for your absence, and I will review any missed material with you later. (Children may not be brought to final exams.)
  - Exclusively breast-fed children are welcome in the classroom as often as necessary.
  - Please do not bring your pets to in-person class, as the instructor is too easily distracted to cope with their delightful presences.
- **Crisis Management:** I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human, and entropy affects us all: crises happen. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.

**Important Note:** How you do in the class has no effect on how much I like and respect you. If you submit an assignment late, I will not be ashamed of you or look on you with disgust. If your work is imperfect, it's a sign that there are things you need to learn/I need to help you with; it is not a sign that you are a bad, lazy, or unworthy person.

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.