

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities
Course Number: ENG 435
Course Title: Major Literary Figures: Shakespeare and His Contemporaries
Number of Credits: 3
Prerequisites: ENG 110 and one literature class at the 200 level

A. Catalog Description of Course:

A study of the selected poems and plays of William Shakespeare. Also included are representative works of selected major contemporaries of Shakespeare from the Elizabethan and Jacobean period.

B. Goals:

- * To acquaint the students with a cross-section of Shakespeare's works and with a highly limited number of works by other authors of the period.
- * To introduce students to some significant literary criticism of Elizabethan drama.
- * To encourage reading and careful discussion of the literary texts.
- * To provide students with historical, political, and social climate of the Renaissance which produced such works.

C. Objectives:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- * Explicate and interpret significant parts of the Shakespeare cannon.
- * Recognize the structure and major techniques characteristic of Renaissance comedy,

tragedy and history as they appear in Shakespeare's plays.

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* Read and understand the criticism generated by Renaissance and Jacobean drama.

D. Outline of Course Content:

1. Introduction to the historical, political, and social background of the Renaissance.
2. Reading and discussion of selected poems and sonnets of William Shakespeare.
3. A study of Shakespeare's major dramatic periods and the works within each period.
4. An overview of Shakespeare's contemporaries and their works. Included may be the following: Marlowe, Johnson, Webster, Dekker.

E. Suggested Text:

Selected anthology of Shakespeare's complete works.
Selected plays/works by Shakespeare's contemporaries.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

Lectures, discussion groups, guest lecturers, videos, films, recorded works, collaborative group projects.

G. Instructor References:

Becker, George. Shakespeare's Histories. New York: Ungar, 1977.

Bentley, Gerald. Shakespeare: A Biographical Handbook. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961.

Bush, Douglas. The Renaissance and English Humanism. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1939.

Calderwood, James, and Harold Toliver, eds. Essays in Shakespearean Criticism. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1970.

Dannenfeldt, Karl. The Renaissance: Medieval or Modern. 2nd edition. Boston: D.C. Heath, 1959.

Doran, Madeline. Shakespeare's Dramatic Language. Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 1976.

Ferguson, Wallace. The Renaissance. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967.

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Granville-Barker, Harley. Prefaces to Shakespeare. 2 vols. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1946.

Joseph, B.L. Elizabethan Acting. New York, 1964.

Kaufmann, Ralph, ed. Elizabethan Drama -- Modern Essays in Criticism. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1945, rpt. 1961.

Muir, Kenneth and S. Schoenbaum, eds. A New Companion to Shakespeare Studies. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1971.

Rabkin, Norman. Shakespeare and the Common Understanding. New York: Free Press, 1967.

Rose, Mark. Shakespearean Design. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Press, 1972.

Simmons, F.L. Shakespeare's Pagan World: The Roman Tragedies. Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia, 1973.

Stoll, Elmer Edgar. Shakespeare and Other Masters. New York: Russell & Russell, 1962.

Talbert, Ernest W. Elizabethan Drama and Shakespeare's Early Plays. Gordian, 1963.

Tillyard, E.M.W. The Elizabethan World Picture. New York: Random House, 1959.

Turner, Robert. Shakespeare's Apprenticeship. Chicago: Chicago Univ. Press, 1974.

Vickers, Brian. The Artistry of Shakespeare's Prose. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1968.

Williams, Neville. The Life and Times of Elizabeth. New York: Doubleday, 1972.

Yates, Frances. Shakespeare's Last Plays. London: Routledge and Paul, 1975.

