

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 373
ENGLISH 373: INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description:

English 373 provides careful, in-depth readings from Shakespeare's tragedies, histories and comedies. The course examines some of the main characteristics of his work, including his major themes, the development of character and plot, and the special worlds that he creates through his poetic language.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Instructors may use either a well-known anthology of Shakespeare's works, such as *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, ed. David Bevington (HarperCollins) or the edition by William Neilson (Houghton Mifflin). Or they may choose to assign a series of paperback editions of individual plays. Recommended editions are the Signet, Folger, Pelican, or Arden.

Some of the most often assigned plays are *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV, Part I*, *Henry V*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *The Tempest*.

Well-known biographies of Shakespeare, critical studies, and books on the Elizabethan stage may also be used in the course. Instructors may also show films of individual plays.

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read five or six of Shakespeare's plays and selected sonnets. They will be expected to take quizzes on the plays or keep a journal recording their responses to selected scenes or characters. There will also be a term paper or several short essays, which will be revised and edited. Students will read aloud and discuss passages from the plays, and they may be asked to participate in small discussion groups or give oral reports. Grades will be based mostly on written work but will also take class participation into account.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-2: Introduction: Course Procedures; Shakespeare and His Age

- A. Shakespeare's Life and Times; the Elizabethan World Picture
- B. The Development of English Drama before Shakespeare
- C. The Elizabethan Stage

Weeks 3-5: The Comedies

- A. Major Themes, Issues, and Character Types in the Comedies
- B. Study of One Early Comedy, Such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *As You Like It*

C. Study of One Serious or "Problem" Comedy, Such as *The Merchant of Venice*

Weeks 6-8: The Histories

A. Major Themes, Issues, and Characters in the History Plays

B. Study of Shakespeare's Vision of History in One Play, Such as *Henry IV, Part I*, or *Henry V*

Weeks 9-12: Shakespearean Tragedy

A. The Concept of Tragedy and Shakespeare's Tragedies

B. Shakespeare's Tragic Plots, Themes, and Characters

C. Close Study of One Tragedy, Such as *Hamlet* or *Othello*

Weeks 13-14: The Romances

A. The Philosophy and Characters of the Late Romances

B. Study of one Romance, Such as *The Tempest*