Course Description

Examines selected romances, histories, and/or problem plays by Shakespeare. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Introduces students to Shakespeare's romances, histories, and/or problem plays and helps them experience the works with understanding.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Students must have successfully completed either ENG 112 (College Composition II), ENG 125 (Introduction to Literature), or their equivalent, or received divisional approval.

Course Goals And Objectives

GOAL ONE: UNDERSTANDING GENRES

Students will be introduced to Shakespeare's treatment of genre. By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• identify the characteristics of romances, histories, and/or problem plays with reference to specific works.

GOAL TWO: ANALYZING ISSUES AND THEMES

Students will be taught to recognize major ideas in the selected works. By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• identify, analyze and meaningfully discuss major ideas and issues raised by the works
• identify minor themes and motifs in individual works.

GOAL THREE: UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERS

Students will be helped to understand important characters in the plays. By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• identify and analyze major characters and their traits,
• meaningfully discuss the conflicts characters face and how characters deal with them
• understand important functions of minor characters.

GOAL FOUR: ENHANCING WRITING ABILITIES

Students will be helped to develop/enhance effective techniques of written analysis in reference to Shakespeare's romances, histories, and/or problem plays. By the end of the course, students will be able to
• utilize writing as a means of enhancing critical thought
• write essays insightfully analyzing and interpreting works.

Major Topics to be Included

a. Genre - specifically in romances, histories, and/or problem plays (those plays difficult to classify)
b. Dramatic conventions, structure
c. Characterization
d. Use of language
e. Themes
f. Staging