

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ENG 271 – THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE I (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Examines selected tragedies and/or comedies by Shakespeare. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Introduces students to Shakespeare's tragedies and/or comedies 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 tragedies and/or comedies 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 tragedies and/or comedies. 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 tragedy and/or comedy)
- b. Dramatic conventions, structure
- c. Characterization
- d. Use of language
- e. Themes
- f. Staging