

**E366K, Shakespeare: Select Tragedies
Spring, 2010**

**Prof. Rumrich, Par 108.
Office Hours: Available on request.**

Course Objectives: The goal of the course is to inform students regarding Shakespearean tragic drama in its historical circumstances and to introduce the performance and critical history of the scheduled plays.

Texts: *Revels Student Edition of Tamburlaine the Great, Parts 1 and 2; Norton Critical Editions of Richard III, Hamlet, Measure for Measure, Othello, Lear, and Macbeth.* Texts are on order at the Co-op.

Exams: Midterm (20%); Final (30%). Exams will test students' ability to analyze verse and their familiarity with course readings and lectures. Scheduling of the final exam is done by the University approximately four weeks before the semester ends; please consult the Registrar's page for details: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/students/exams/index.html>

Quizzes: (20%) Five or six unannounced quizzes on the reading will be given. Students are expected to have read the assignments attentively. **NO MAKEUPS:** *This rule is in effect the attendance policy.* If you miss classes, your quiz average will likely suffer. This consequence is intended. As a concession to unforeseeable circumstances, your lowest quiz score will be dropped. *That is the only concession.*

Memorization: (15%) Students will memorize 80 lines of verse (NOT prose) from the plays on the schedule: 40 by midterm; another 40 before the end of classes.

Presentation: (15%) Students in teams of two will offer short (10-15 minute) class presentations based on the history and criticism included in the *Norton Critical Editions*.

Journals: Make two entries per week. Each should take 30 minutes to write and consist of a blend of summary and commentary, though some meandering is expected. The crucial requirement is that you write, continuously if possible, for thirty minutes. When you are stuck, one thing you might do is look up any words, names, places in the reading that you don't recognize and write out the definitions or explanations in your journal. You should consult the *OED* and the classical dictionaries on the library's electronic reference site. For instructional purposes, I may refer to specific journal entries in class, but the identities of those responsible for particular comments will be shielded. Performance as a journal writer cannot hurt your course grade *unless you skimp on entries*. The point of the assignment is to practice writing and is more about day-to-day discipline than inspiration.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty may incur disciplinary penalties including failure of the course and dismissal from the university.

Students with disabilities may seek appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Schedule of Readings (supplemental or substitute readings are likely to be assigned):

19 January: Introduction.

21 January: *Tamburlaine the Great, Parts 1 and 2.*

26-28 January: *Tamburlaine the Great, Parts 1 and 2*, continued.

2-9 Feb: *Richard III.*

11-25 Feb: *Hamlet.*

2-9 Mar: *Measure for Measure.* **First half of memorization assignment must be complete by 9 March..**

11 Mar: **Midterm.**

23 Mar-1 Apr: *Othello.*

6-15 Apr: *Macbeth.*

20 Apr-6 May: *Lear.* **Complete second half of memorization assignment before last class day.**