

Political Shakespeare

Schedule of Readings

Mon. Jan. 9 - Introductory (scenes from *Sir Thomas More*)
Wed. Jan. 11 - *2 Henry VI*, 1.1-2
Fri. Jan. 13 - *2 Henry VI*, 1.3-4
Mon. Jan. 16 - MLK
Wed. Jan. 18 - *2 Henry VI*, Act 2
Fri. Jan. 20 - *2 Henry VI*, 3.1
Mon. Jan. 23 - *2 Henry VI*, 3.2-3
Wed. Jan. 25 - *2 Henry VI*, 4.1-5
Fri. Jan. 27 - *2 Henry VI*, 4.6-10
Mon. Jan. 30 - No class
Wed. Feb. 1 - No class
Fri. Feb. 3 - No class
Mon. Feb. 6 - *2 Henry VI*, Act 5
Wed. Feb. 8 - Review and catch-up
Fri. Feb. 10 - Review and catch-up
Mon. Feb. 13 - *Julius Caesar*, Act 1
Wed. Feb. 15 - *Julius Caesar*, Act 2
Fri. Feb. 17 - *Julius Caesar*, Act 3
Mon. Feb. 20 - *Julius Caesar*, Act 4
Wed. Feb. 22 - *Julius Caesar*, Act 5
Fri. Feb. 24 - Review and catch-up
Mon. Feb. 27 - Review and catch-up
Wed. Mar. 1 - Review and catch-up
Fri. Mar. 3 - Midterm, Part 1
Mon. Mar. 6 - Midterm, Part 2
Wed. Mar. 8 - Midterm, Part 3
Fri. Mar. 10 - No class
Mon. Mar. 13 - Spring break
Wed. Mar. 15 - Spring break
Fri. Mar. 17 - Spring break
Mon. Mar. 20 - *Coriolanus*, 1.1
Wed. Mar. 22 - *Coriolanus*, 1.2-4
Fri. Mar. 24 - *Coriolanus*, 1.5-10
Mon. Mar. 27 - *Coriolanus*, 2.1-2
Wed. Mar. 29 - *Coriolanus*, 2.3; EARLY PAPER TOPICS DUE
Fri. Mar. 31 - *Coriolanus*, 3.1
Mon. Apr. 3 - *Coriolanus*, 3.2-3
Wed. Apr. 5 - *Coriolanus*, 4.1-4
Fri. Apr. 7 - *Coriolanus*, 4.5-7
Mon. Apr. 10 - *Coriolanus*, 5.1-3

Wed. Apr. 12 - *Coriolanus*, 5.4-6; EARLY PAPERS DUE & ALL TOPICS DUE
Fri. Apr. 14 - Review and catch-up
Mon. Apr. 17 - Review and catch-up
Wed. Apr. 19 - Review and catch-up; ALL PAPERS DUE
Fri. Apr. 21 - Review and catch-up
Mon. Apr. 24 - Final, Part 1
Wed. Apr. 26 - Final, Part 2; EARLY PAPER REWRITES DUE

Course Objectives

The course will focus on what is likely to have been Shakespeare's earliest history play, 2 *Henry VI* (c. 1591), his mid-career classic *Julius Caesar* (1599), and his last tragedy, *Coriolanus* (1608). Special attention will be given Shakespeare's treatment of gender and social class, and to the intertwining of psychological and political themes, in this sample of plays on English and Roman history. Emphasis will be placed throughout on the importance of close reading as a way of opening up the wide range of issues raised by these texts.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Criteria

Your course grade will be based on the following criteria: midterm (25%), final exam (25%), one five-page paper (40%), and class participation (10%). I reserve the right to be more lenient if it seems warranted, but these percentages are the norm. The midterm will consist of three parts: (1) identification and close reading of five short passages (25 points); (2) a commentary on a longer passage (25 points); (3) an essay on a choice of topics (25 points). The noncumulative final will consist of Parts 1 and 3. Part 1 is closed-book and closed-note. Parts 2 and 3 are open-book and open-note. *Papers must follow the guidelines of the Style Sheet.* At least one week before the papers are due, you must send me an email (*not* an attachment) with a one-paragraph proposal for your topic and setting forth your thesis. I will respond and tell you either to go ahead or ask for further clarification before you proceed. *No outside sources may be used without being specified ahead of time and receiving my permission.* Early papers will be returned the following week with my comments and a grade, and may then be rewritten for a new grade. Each absence over five per semester may result in a lowering of your course grade by one-half a letter. The required Arden editions of the plays have been ordered at the UF Bookstore.

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation is required to determine eligibility for appropriate classroom accommodations. For more information about Student Disability Services, see: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability/>