

# English 2530: Shakespeare's Tragedies & Histories

Fall 2006 / MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. / 3 credit hours / MC 106

Professor: Dr. Ace G. Pilkington

Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 p.m., TR noon-12:30 p.m., and by appointment

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## DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students who successfully complete this or other literature classes will be able to do the following:

Enjoy, appreciate, and evaluate representative short stories, poems, plays, novels, and essays.

Think critically and write about the various readings.

Understand and use in literary analysis the aspects of fiction, including plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view.

Understand the use and importance of figurative language, including symbols, metaphors, similes, images in analyzing our readings.

Understand (and use in literary analysis) poetic devices, including figurative language, sound, and meter.

Share critical insights with class members.

## GOALS:

English 2530 will introduce you to Shakespeare's plays, his theatre, and his times. The class will work equally well (I hope) for those who are new to Shakespeare and those who are "native here and to the manner born." The main purpose of English 2530 is to help you enjoy Shakespeare's work as literature (We'll look at plot, language, and ideas.) and as theatre (We will see actual productions and discuss possible ones). The class should also (as most literature classes do) increase your understanding of yourself and others, broaden your experience of history and the world, and provide you with images of man that illuminate the perils and possibilities of humanness.

## TEXTS:

Ace G. Pilkington's *Screening Shakespeare: From Richard II to Henry V*

Ace G. Pilkington's *Shakespeare's Tragedies & Histories: The Text*

William Shakespeare's *Richard II, Henry IV Part 1, Henry IV Part 2, Henry V, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Othello, Macbeth, and Hamlet* in single volume, paperback editions available at the Dixie College bookstore (though any edition of the plays with explanatory notes on the same or facing page as the text will do).

## **GRADES are based on the following:**

**1. Four tests**, each worth one hundred points, which will contain multiple choice and essay questions: The first test will come approximately three weeks into the semester and will cover *Richard II*, *Henry IV Part 1*, material from *Shakespeare's Tragedies & Histories: The Text*, and our classroom discussions up to that point. The second test will come approximately six weeks into the semester and will cover *Henry IV Part 2*, *Henry V*, material from *Shakespeare's Tragedies & Histories: The Text*, and our classroom discussions from the first test to the second. The third test will come approximately ten weeks into the semester and will cover *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Othello*, material from *Shakespeare's Tragedies & Histories: The Text*, and our classroom discussions between the second test and the third. The fourth test will come during the time scheduled for our final (Friday, Dec. 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00) and will cover *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, material from *Shakespeare's Tragedies & Histories: The Text*, and our classroom discussions between the third and fourth tests.

**2. Extra Credit:** Reading any of the titles on the extra credit book list, writing a 100 word reaction to it, and discussing it with me is worth 5 points (unless it is marked otherwise). Writing a 500 word paper is worth 5 points for the paper, plus 5 points for the book, and no discussion is necessary. You may earn up to 15 points of extra credit in this way. All extra credit must be in two weeks before the semester ends.

**3. Class Enlightenment Essay:** Typed, double-spaced, correctly punctuated and so forth, this assignment is worth 100 points. You should keep a record of your experiences and thoughts in this class. It should include something of your classroom experiences, responses to the books you're reading for this class, and perhaps even preparations for the tests. Finally, it should say something about how this class has affected you, what you've learned, and how you've changed (if you have). Everything should relate directly to this class. You should turn in your essay no later than Friday, Nov. 3, 2006. You must include an accurate word count with your essay. Also be sure to include your name and the name of the class. Falsifying the word count or making creative margins (or any similar activity) will be considered cheating, and you will get no points for this assignment. An A paper will have at least 2500 words; an A- 2250, a B 2000, a C 1750, a D 1500. Assume that a typed page using 12 point font will have approximately 250 words. However, you must use your word processor to give me an accurate word count. Also, number your pages.

**4. Attendance:** Although I expect you to attend class, I will not penalize you for a reasonable number of absences. However, at the point when you miss more than half the class sessions, you also miss passing the class. Each play will be allotted approximately two weeks of class time.

**NOTE:** Test dates will be announced well in advance, and there will always be a review on the class day before the test. If you miss a test, you must make it up within one week of the test date. Failing that (so to speak), your only alternative is to take the optional comprehensive final to replace your missing score.

## NUMERICAL-LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENTS

95-100	=	A
90-94	=	A-
86-89	=	B+
83-85	=	B
80-82	=	B-
76-79	=	C+
73-75	=	C
70-72	=	C-
66-69	=	D+
63-65	=	D
60-62	=	D-
0-59	=	F

If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability, or think that you might have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center, Room 201. The Disability Resource Center will determine eligibility based on your professional documentation and determine the appropriate accommodations related to your disability.