

# William Shakespeare

LIT 111D (Su 2024)



This summer, we will read two plays from the midpoint of Shakespeare's career (1599-1601): what some would call his last great comedy, *As You Like It*, and his first great tragedy, *Hamlet*. Despite some evident differences, these plays are both concerned with the nature of human society in a fallen world; the causes and consequences of political rebellion; the relationship between the sexes and between parents and children; melancholy as a state of mind; and the role of the theater in revealing the truth about human experiences and providing resources for surviving that revelation and living harmoniously with others. We will also focus particularly on Shakespeare's account of two essentially human activities: thinking and talking. What are they good for? When do they get in the way of human flourishing? To supplement our study of these plays and enrich our discussion about them, we will sample Shakespeare's sources, criticism, and modern productions. We will also attend performances of AYLI and HAM at Santa Cruz Shakespeare, free of charge to you, and visit [Foolscap Press](#), a fine press print shop. No knowledge of Shakespeare is necessary. All are welcome.

**Basic Requirements** ~ Do all assigned reading before we meet to discuss it. Come to all scheduled meetings punctually, with print copies of the required texts, and to all class trips. Make the discussion lively and be generous to each other. Complete the graded assignments.

**Required Texts** ~ I ordered the Pelican edition of the plays that we will be reading from in class. You will be able to find new and second-hand versions at many online booksellers. *You must either purchase this edition or check it out from the library, and you must bring it with you to every class meeting.* We will be doing a fair amount of reading aloud from the play, and you cannot participate in discussion if you do not have a text open for reference. I will provide all other readings on Canvas. You will find much more information about the plays, their sources, and their afterlives [here](#) (AYLI) and [here](#) (HAM).

**UC Regulations** ~ A five-credit course at the University of California is equivalent to fifteen hours of work per week. The compression of ten-week quarters into five-week summer sessions means that you are expected to spend thirty hours per week on each five-credit course you take (approximately seven hours in class and twenty-three hours on your own). That does not seem feasible to me, and I have adjusted the expectations of this course accordingly. I encourage you to spend your time outside of class meetings preparing for the seminar by reading, taking notes in your texts, re-reading, and revising your notes; discussing the reading with classmates and taking advantage of office hours; learning passages by heart; preparing to write, writing, and revising your writing; and screening stage and film productions of the plays to deepen your appreciation for them.

**Graded Assignments** ~ There are four graded assignments: a written, in-class close reading exercise (20%); a recitation of a speech from either AYLI or HAM (20-50 lines) that you have learned by heart, along with a one-page account of what you learned about the speech by memorizing and performing it (20%); a 1250-word critical review of one live production, due on August 13 (AYLI) or August 28 (HAM) (30%); and an in-class exam that will ask you to identify passages and comment on them (30%). *All assignments must be completed to earn a passing grade for the course.*

***Participation and Attendance*** ~ LIT 111D is a seminar, meaning that lively, critical participation in discussion is essential. Participating in this manner will have a positive impact on your final grade. We have the privilege of being a small group this summer, so let's make the most of the opportunity. Attendance at all class meeting is required but will not be graded. Absence from more than two scheduled class meetings will result in a failing grade. If you cannot attend class meetings and the required performances, your best option may be to withdraw from the course (see deadlines below). Assignments that are completed *in class* – August 1 and 29 – cannot be made up. You must make it your priority to be in class on those days.

***Important Summer Session 2024 Deadlines*** ~ To drop a course: Monday, August 5 (tuition reversal). To petition for withdrawal: Sunday, August 18 (no tuition reversal). To change grade option: Sunday, August 25. Note that during the summer session, you will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment of fees. You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. By contrast, withdrawing from a course posts a W to your transcript and full tuition is charged (no refund). For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP), consult the summer academic [calendar](#). For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email [summer@ucsc.edu](mailto:summer@ucsc.edu).

***DRC Accommodations & Academic Integrity*** ~ If you have questions about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) to make an appointment for a remote conversation. Acquaint yourself with the campus's policies concerning [Academic Integrity](#), as cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

### ***Contacts***

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### *Schedule*

T & Th, 9:00am to 12:30pm  
July 30 through August 29

- Tu, July 30    *As You Like It*, Act 1
- Th, Aug 1    *As You Like It*, Acts 1 & 2
- Tu, Aug 6    *As You Like It*, Acts 2 & 3  
\*graded in-class writing
- Th, Aug 8    *As You Like It*, Act 4
- F, Aug 9    \*performance of *As You Like It*, 8:00pm
- Tu, Aug 13   *As You Like It*, Act 5 & *Hamlet*, Act 1  
\*theater review (option 1) due by 5:00pm
- Th, Aug 15   *Hamlet*, Acts 1 & 2
- Tu, Aug 20   *Hamlet*, Acts 2 & 3
- Th, Aug 22   \*visit to Foolscap Press
- F, Aug 23    \*performance of *Hamlet*, 8:00pm
- Tu, Aug 27   *Hamlet*, Acts 4 & 5
- W, Aug 28    \*theater review (option 2) due by 5:00pm  
\*last date to recite passage learned by heart
- Th, Aug 29   \*Exam, in-class