

William Shakespeare: A Study

Grade Level: 12 Semester Elective: ½ Credit

In this one-semester senior elective, students will study a central author to the English-speaking world, and one of the most quoted poets and regularly produced playwrights: William Shakespeare. Today, hundreds of years after his death, his plays continue to be staged on and off Broadway and in theaters around the world, as well as on the big screen of Hollywood. Why *is* that, and who *is* he? To what degree is his work still relevant in today's society? Why is he so widely acclaimed and criticized alike? If you enjoy Shakespeare, want to be exposed to more plays, and want to learn more about this author, this course may be for you.

How is the course structured?

Course Components

- Read and analyze at least one play from each Shakespearean genre: tragedy, comedy, history, and pastoral. Read several Shakespearean Sonnets. Analyze and perform chosen monologues. Watch and critique film versions of his plays. Write literary analyses and critiques. Evaluate scholarly criticism about questions raised in the plays.

Course Grade Based On:

- Participation in in-class readings, discussion, individual and small group activities, daily journal writing and note-taking, essays, and performances.

What can I expect?

Course Workload:

- Active participation in class is necessary for success. Homework is given sparingly, as most of the reading of the plays occurs in class. At-home readings are sometimes required in order to get a basic understanding, and then a thorough reading is conducted in class. Like any English class, there are required essays.

Homework Frequency:

- Sparingly.

Type of Homework:

- Reading and Annotating, Journal Responses for Close Reading, Drafting, and Revision of Writing

Major Projects:

- Create a musical playlist that represents a play of your choice, monologue performance, scene performance, various written assignments.

Text Titles Could Include:

- *Hamlet, Richard III, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Julius Caesar,* various Sonnets, various forms of scholarship and literary criticism.