

Shakespeare A

2009-2010

Mr. van der Woude

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Office Hours: By appointment at lunch or after school

Location: L4

Course Description:

The Shakespeare course is divided into two semester-length classes, an A class and a B class. The student may take either or both classes without repeating material from the other. Each class explores four of Shakespeare's well-known plays. The course is designed to introduce the student to the world of Elizabethan theater as well as to the splendor of Shakespeare's language and style. While primarily a reading and writing class, the course relies heavily on class discussion, examination, film-criticism, role-playing, and live productions whenever possible.

English Department Academic Content Standards:

The primary goal of the English department is to help students read well and communicate effectively. Upon graduation from Immaculate Heart High School students will:

1. Read critically and recognize literal and implied meaning in varied classic and contemporary texts, assigned and independently selected.
2. Write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument. The writing demonstrates students' awareness of audience and purpose. Students will progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.
3. Write clearly and use formal conventions of the English language: grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, word choice, paragraphing, and figurative language.
4. Speak effectively and employ formal and informal conventions of the English language that are appropriate to a variety of purposes and audiences.
5. Respectfully discuss topics, evaluate alternative points of view, and recognize questions and issues raised in the works they read.
6. Recognize trends and developments in literature as an art form, including literary movements, styles, and conventions.
7. Find, evaluate, and synthesize information for specific purposes, using a variety of properly cited sources.
8. Apply knowledge of word origins to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading materials and use those words accurately.

Senior Elective Benchmarks and Performance Standards:

Students who have successfully completed two semesters of Senior English will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the specific works of literature that they will study in elective courses (Content Standard 1,6).
2. Demonstrate in writing and discussion greater maturity and sophistication in their understanding of literary texts, voice, diction, and tone (Content Standards 1,2,3,4,6,7,8).
3. Formulate an opinion based on a work of literature that results in an original, arguable thesis (Content Standards 1,2,6,8).
4. Be able to write more critically and analytically, using an original, arguable thesis (Content Standards 1,2,3,6,7,8).
5. Participate in more challenging class discussions, oral presentations, and creative projects that encourage them to confidently articulate their points of view based on a deeper understanding of the text (Content Standards 1,4,5,7).
6. Use and properly cite appropriate text and Internet sources (Content Standard 7).
7. Compose, edit, and revise a personal statement for college admissions applications (Content Standards 2,3,4,7).

Required Materials:

The English Department requires that you bring to class before the end of the first week of school **your own unmarked copies** of all the texts listed here. You must also ensure that you purchase the **specified edition** of each text. Please consult the Varsity Books website for each book's ISBN----an identifying number that will help you distinguish between different editions of the same text.

Othello
King Henry V
The Merchant of Venice
The Taming of the Shrew

MLA Handbook
Pens w/ Blue or Black Ink
No. 2 Lead Pencils

Classroom Expectations:

- **Participation:** Participation in class discussion is an integral component of the literary classroom. It is beneficial to you and your classmates in terms of basic comprehension, in-depth analysis and more. Refer to the English Department rubric for class discussion to understand what is expected of you. Your final grade in this area may be raised ½ a grade for excellence in participation. It may be lowered ½ grade for deficiency.
- **Make-Up Work:** All written assignments must be completed on time to pass this class. If you have a legitimate need for an extension, please see me before the due date and we will work something out. Keep on top of things and train yourself to see conflicts ahead of time. Keep unnecessary absences to a minimum. You are responsible to find out about and make up what you have missed.

- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s WORDS or IDEAS without giving proper credit. This includes paraphrasing a source without giving due credit. As you know, plagiarism is a serious breach of academic integrity and any assignment proven to contain plagiarism earns a zero.
- **Other classroom rules:** There are a number of additional classroom rules that I will explain in class at the appropriate time(s). In general, a student ought to refer to the IHHS Student Handbook for codes of conduct. Adherence to the Handbook’s rules of behavior will serve the student well in almost every conceivable case.

Types of Assignments:

- **Writing:** You will respond in writing to each of the major and some of the minor works we study. You will also write timed in-class essays. You will work on various projects and presentations that involve writing. All essays must be word-processed and include a *properly formatted works cited/consulted page*.

You must upload all essays and any other specified assignments to the website: www.turnitin.com. You will need to set up a user profile using a valid email account. You will also need the appropriate class ID number and enrollment password designated for your class period.

Period	Shakespeare	Class ID	Enrollment Password
6		2769546	Desdemona

- **Homework:** You should plan on spending about an hour per day reading, writing, revising work, or completing homework for this class. Some days will be heavier than others----especially if you do not plan ahead on long-term assignments. Do plan ahead! You will have regular homework assignments involving reading, writing, and other activities.

Grading Policy:

Grades are computed on a point system with, for example, essays worth 100, tests, 50; projects, between 20-80; and homework, between 5-20. The semester grade will be computed by tallying the total of earned semester points and the final exam. As noted above, participation can raise or lower this grade by one half (e.g., B to B+ or B-).

Course Chronology:

Fall Semester – Shakespeare A
<p><i>Othello</i>- Jealousy, Honesty, Racism, Sexism? What’s <i>Othello</i> all about?</p> <p><i>King Henry V</i>–What is the psychology of a nation at war? What is a just war? Is preemptive war justified?</p> <p><i>The Merchant of Venice</i>-Vengeance, Justice, and “Proper” Roles in Society for Women.</p> <p><i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>-The War Between Sexes: What is a Wife’s Duty? What is a Man’s Responsibility? Who’s the Boss?</p>