

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ENGL 233: SHAKESPEARE

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 233 Shakespeare
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2018**
- E. Sponsoring Department: English
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 111 English Composition I
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay, susan.arvay@raritanval.edu; Patrice Marks, Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. This course is a study of the works of William Shakespeare through reading a selection of plays and poems. In addition to the literary aspects of the plays, students study the staging conventions of Elizabethan England and explore the social and historical context in which the plays were written and first performed.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Shakespeare provides students with an opportunity to study literature by one of the major dramatists and poets of the Early Modern period in England. It is a course typically featured in college English departments.
- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature general education course

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature
- C. This course meets a Category B requirement in the English A.A. degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Selected plays from Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, historical and problem plays. Minor works may also be examined.
- B. Reading Shakespeare: A consideration of Shakespeare's language as well as a study of the conventions of drama of his time.
- C. Interpreting Shakespeare in historical and cultural context: A consideration of the works both in the context of Elizabethan England and in the twenty-first century.
- D. Analyzing themes that appear across several of Shakespeare's plays.

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze works by Shakespeare within their literary, historical, and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, *)
2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions of Early Modern English theater and its place in society during Shakespeare's time (GE-NJ 6)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

SEE ABOVE.

C. Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

1. research papers
2. essays
3. response papers
4. discussion questions
5. journals
6. exams
7. quizzes

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Essays that communicate effectively in standard English with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of writing style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. response papers
- I. journals

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study
- G. regular writing activities
- H. examination of films

VIII. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts are:

- A. Editions of Shakespeare's plays and poems from the Folger Shakespeare Library (Simon & Schuster), The Pelican Shakespeare Series (Penguin Random House), or the Modern Library Classics series (Modern Library).
- B. Open source editions of Shakespeare's plays and poems, such as *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* at <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/> or Folger Digital Texts at <http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/>

Samples of specific films:

- A. *Hamlet* (2000, directed by Michael Almereyda)
- B. *Much Ado About Nothing* (2012, directed by Joss Whedon)
- C. *Othello* (2001, directed by Geoffrey Sax)
- D. *Richard III* (1995, directed by Richard Loncraine)
- E. *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet* (1996, directed by Baz Luhrmann,)

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course.