

Dr. Rebecca Wiseman
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Office: HW 310
Office hours by appointment

ENGC10H3: Studies in Shakespeare
Shakespeare's History Plays: An Introduction
Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00-12:30, MW 120

In this course, we will explore five of Shakespeare's most complex and fascinating plays: *Julius Caesar* and the four plays that make up the second tetralogy: *Richard II*, *1 Henry IV*, *2 Henry IV*, and *Henry V*. As we read these plays, we will investigate the ways in which Shakespeare portrays historical events, negotiates gender dynamics, and positions characters within and against the categories of race, nationality, and class. Most importantly, we will discover how Shakespeare re-imagines history, linking the world-historical events of centuries past to the political concerns of his own early modern England. Along the way, we will examine how Shakespeare urges his audiences to reconsider their own positions on the controversial questions that defined Elizabethan and early Jacobean England – questions about the nature of power, the perils of regime change, and the status and responsibilities of ordinary citizens during times of social and political tumult.

Required Texts (available for purchase at the UTSC Bookstore):

The Norton Shakespeare, 2nd Edition. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean E. Howard, and Katharine Eisaman Maus.

A Coursepack.

Course Requirements

Short Responses. You are required to write three short critical responses (250-300 words each) throughout the course of the semester. You must submit your responses to me via email. You may submit the three responses at any time; however, you may not submit more than one response in a given week. The topic of each response is up to you – you might choose to discuss a passage in one of the plays that you find interesting, troubling, confusing, or bizarre; you might also respond to one or more of the assigned critical essays. The responses are worth five points each.

Midterm Paper. The midterm paper, due on Wednesday, February 15, will be a 5-page close reading of a text of your choice.

Midterm Exam. The midterm exam will be held on Monday, February 27. More details will be provided later in the term.

Final Paper. The final paper, 8 to 10 pages in length, will require you to produce an original analysis of one or more of the plays and to supplement your analysis with independent research.

Final Exam. More details about the final exam will be provided later in the term.

Commonplace-book. While I do not require it, I strongly recommend that you maintain a commonplace-book, a handwritten or electronic compilation of early modern terms and definitions for your own reference. Your commonplace-book might also contain passages you find interesting, as well as notes and insights about the plays and readings.

Using Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Grade Breakdown

Short Responses: 15%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Midterm Paper: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Final Paper: 30%

Schedule

Monday, January 9

Introductions

Wednesday, January 11

Readings due:

Ernst Honigmann, "Shakespeare's Life" (CP)

David Scott Kastan, "Shakespeare and English History" (CP)

Valerie Traub, "Gender and Sexuality in Shakespeare" (CP)

Monday, January 16

Katharine Eisaman Maus, Introduction to *Julius Caesar* (*The Norton Shakespeare*, pp. 1525-1532)

Julius Caesar Acts 1 and 2

Wednesday, January 18

Julius Caesar Acts 3 and 4

Monday, January 23

Julius Caesar Act 5

Coppelia Kahn, "Passions of Some Difference: Friendship and Emulation in *Julius Caesar*" (CP)

Wednesday, January 25

Richard II Act 1

Monday, January 30

Richard II Acts 2, 3, and 4

Wednesday, February 1

Richard II Act 5

Phyllis Rackin, "The Role of the Audience In Shakespeare's *Richard II*" (CP)

Monday, February 6

1 Henry IV Acts 1 and 2

Wednesday, February 8

1 Henry IV Acts 3 and 4

Monday, February 13

1 Henry IV Act 5

Wednesday, February 15

Midterm paper due

Monday, February 20

No class

Wednesday, February 22

No class

Monday, February 27

Midterm Exam

Wednesday, February 29

2 Henry IV Act 1

Monday, March 5

2 Henry IV Act 2

Wednesday, March 7

2 Henry IV Acts 3 and 4

Monday, March 12

2 Henry IV Act 5

John W. Blanpied, "Henry IV, Part 2: Unfathered Heirs and Loathly Births of Nature" (CP)

Wednesday, March 14

Assigned reading TBD

Monday, March 19

Henry V Act 1

Wednesday, March 21

Henry V Act 2

Monday, March 26

Henry V Act 3

Wednesday, March 28

Henry V Act 4

Monday, April 2

Henry V Act 5

Norman Rabkin, "Either/Or" (CP)

Wednesday, April 4

Last day