

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3469**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**ENGL 4213 Shakespeare**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 2113 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies and RHET 3203 Textual Research Methods; or THEA 3603 Directing I; or instructor consent.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

A critical study of Shakespeare's major works, including selected comedies, tragedies, and histories. Shakespeare is a versatile source author, since his works are textually complex and widely read, offering opportunities for exploration into poetic and dramatic aspects of the works from many critical and historical perspectives.

**B. Additional Information – None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Value Shakespeare's works and their significance in historical, critical, and literary contexts.
2. Write essays which explicate, analyze, and evaluate the works studied in innovative and scholarly ways, and present the findings from these essays to the class.
3. Display research scholarship techniques fundamental to further scholarly work in literature of any type.

**B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)**

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of

texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

### **Global & Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

### A. Historical context

1. Shakespeare's life and career
2. Acting companies and the theatre
3. Life in Shakespeare's England
4. Shakespeare's language
5. The Family and Society
6. Gender roles
7. Order and the Great Chain of Being
8. Race and colonialism

### B. Long poems

1. *Venus and Adonis*
2. *The Rape of Lucrece*

### C. Comedies

1. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
2. *The Merchant of Venice*

### D. Histories

1. *Richard II*
2. *Henry IV, Part I*

### E. Tragedies

1. *Othello*
2. *Hamlet*

### F. Romances

1. *The Tempest*

### G. Sonnets

1. Four of the following: 2, 4, 18, 20, 29, 36, 40, 42, 55, 79, 85, 127, 130, 144

### H. Scholarship: Readings of Shakespeare

1. Feminist/gender studies
2. New Historicist
3. Formalist
4. Class studies
5. Postcolonial/race theory
6. Poststructuralist