

Week One (8/26)

Introduction to the course; overview of requirements; preliminary presentation of principal topics

Week Two (9/2)

Readings: *Venus and Adonis*; *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*; Sonnets 1 through 23

Topics: sexuality (incest particularly), nature, and “natural philosophy” (= modern “science”)

Week Three (9/9)

Readings: continued from week two. Topics: continued from week two

Week Four (9/16)

Readings: *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*. Topics: marriage, the State, and power

Week Five (9/23)

Readings: continued. Topics: continued, with the addition of censorship and obscenity

Week Six (9/30)

Readings: *Much Ado About Nothing*. Topics: infidelity, betrayal, the demonization of women

Week Seven (10/7)

**FIRST ESSAY DUE**

Readings: *Othello* and *Coriolanus*. Topics: sexual pathology as psychopathology and socio-pathology

Week Eight (10/14)

Readings: continued. Topics: continued.

Week Nine (10/21)

Readings: *Richard III* and *Macbeth*. Topics: identity as a function of sexuality

Week Ten (10/28)

Readings: continued. Topics: continued

Week Eleven (11/4)

Readings: *Hamlet*. Topic: Ophelia as tragic protagonist

Week Twelve (11/11)

**HOLIDAY**

((( Readings: continued. Topics: *Hamlet* “-t-h-(e)—m-a-l-e-” )))

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Week Thirteen (11/18)

Readings: continued. Topics: *Hamlet* as “-t-h-(e) —m-a-l-e-”

Week Fourteen (11/25)

Readings: *King Lear*. Topic: the division of the kingdom

Week Fifteen (12/1)

Readings: continued. Topic: bastardy as the principal question of human sexuality

Week Sixteen (12/9)

Readings: *King Lear* and *The Tempest*. Topics: man in nature and nature in man

**END OF THE COURSE. FINAL ESSAY DUE**

**Assessment** There will be two essays (70% of final mark); class participation (20% of final mark); attendance, monitored by unannounced spot quizzes (10% of final mark). There is **no final examination** for this course. I am happy to assign paper topics. I prefer that students invent their own.

**Attendance** The first 150 minutes of class missed (i.e., one week) will be excused; after that, each class missed *without a valid excuse* reduces your final mark by 10%.

**Text** *The Norton Shakespeare*, based on *The Oxford Shakespeare*

There will be a Reserve List in Library West containing useful titles for beginning study.

**Office Hours** M 9, T E2, & by appointment

### Special notes

Plagiarism is a crime. Plagiarism, if you are convicted of it, entails an “E” in the course as well as other university sanctions. Plagiarism of web-sites is as much a crime as plagiarism of printed materials. See URL <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Attendance is mandatory. What does this mean? In my courses, it means that class is a communal experience that depends upon the participation of everyone, including me and you.

Compensatory assignments are scheduled at my convenience.

The administration deems it necessary that you have a cellphone in case of emergency notifications. Therefore, it is **assumed that your cellphone will be set to *minimum-sound alert during class***.

Post-facto arrangements are repugnant to me. Any reasonable request, made in advance and in a proper manner, will be accommodated if at all possible.

## A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

*THIS COURSE WILL INCLUDE SEXUALLY EXPLICIT LANGUAGE AND TOPICS THAT MANY STUDENTS FIND DISTASTEFUL OR EVEN OFFENSIVE. SUCH LANGUAGE AND TOPICS ARE FREQUENTLY THE VERY PITH OF THE POETRY. SHAKESPEARE, LIKE CHAUCER, BEN JONSON, JOHN MILTON, AND A HOST OF OTHER PRE-MODERN ENGLISH POETS, IS NOT IN THE LEAST RELUCTANT TO BE EXPLICIT, EVEN LOUDLY EXPLICIT, WHEN IT SUITS HIM. IF YOU ARE OFFENDED OR OTHERWISE DISCOMMODED BY SUCH LANGUAGE AND TOPICS, YOU ARE STRONGLY URGED TO RE-THINK YOUR DECISION TO ENROLL IN THIS COURSE. SHAKESPEARE’S POETRY CANNOT BE TAUGHT WITH CENSORSHIP OF HIS LANGUAGE, NOR WILL I ATTEMPT TO DO SO.* (Statement approved by English Department 07/2011)

### Statements recommended by University of Florida officials

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.” <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see URL <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php#s4041>

UF has recently instituted minus grades. As a result, letter grades now have different grade point equivalencies. For more information, see URL <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

University Counseling Services (39)2-1575; Student Mental Health Services (39)2-1171.

**RAS**