

English 452, LEC 201

Professor Mark Netzloff

Course Dates: June 27-July 27 (second 4-week semester)

Online asynchronous course

Note: English 452 fulfills requirements for a pre-1800 course for most tracks of the English major, as well as for the English minor and English Education major.

Texts and Materials:

Four Comedies, Bantam Shakespeare [for The Merchant of Venice]

Four Tragedies, Bantam Shakespeare [for Hamlet and Othello]

Henry V, Pelican Shakespeare

The Sonnets, Signet Shakespeare

The Tempest, Folger Shakespeare

Other course materials posted to course's Canvas site

Course Description:

This course provides an introductory survey of Shakespearean drama through a focused study of Shakespeare's Sonnets and five plays: The Merchant of Venice, Henry V, Hamlet, Othello, and The Tempest. Complementing our close reading of the plays, we will also be situating the texts in relation to their literary, theatrical, and historical contexts. Because Shakespeare wrote his plays for performance rather than publication, we will pay particular attention to the cultural importance of the early modern theater. In addition, we will examine the ways these texts have been reinterpreted over time by looking at the plays in performance and on film.

Course Requirements:

Course work will consist of reading questions on each play (5 in all) as well as 8 posts (500 words each) to the online discussion forum.