

Course Code: LIT 125 (IAI H3 905)

Course Title: Introduction to Shakespeare

Department: Humanities

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 23.1404

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Reading and analysis of Shakespearean comedy, history, tragedy, romance, and sonnets. Includes viewing and analysis of at least one film adaptation. (Also in Canterbury Program)

General Course Objectives

- Students will read a range of Shakespeare's works, including comedy, tragedy, history, romance, and non-dramatic poetry. They will develop increased facility with Shakespeare's language; exhibit an appreciation for the nuances of personality and psychological struggle in Shakespeare's characters; and demonstrate an understanding of Shakespeare's strategies for creating emotional power, suspense, dramatic tension, and other effects.
- Students will develop their ability to analyze literature, as well as increase their understanding of the relationship of Shakespeare's works to Elizabethan and Jacobean culture.

Minimum Placement Levels

| English | Reading | Math |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Placement out of ENG 099 | Placement out of CCS 099 | None |

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Minimum of 2 exams (or the equivalent in shorter quizzes); 2-3 analytical essays or projects (minimum 10-12 pages of polished writing); participation through reading, responses, and class discussion.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Varies by instructor.

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

| Course Segment | Learning Outcomes | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|---|--|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Shakespeare's World: Elizabethan and Jacobean Cultures and Worldviews | 1. Understand the genre classifications of Shakespeare's plays in relation to each other and of the role of drama in Elizabethan/Jacobean culture. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Shakespeare's Language and His Sources | 1. Think, speak, and write critically and analytically about Shakespeare's work through close-reading, discussion, and written analysis. 2. Identify, define, and interpret formal elements and techniques of Shakespeare's work (e.g. character/personality, imagery, figurative language, plot, theme, and verse form). | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Shakespeare's Dramatic Craft and Innovations | 1. Recognize that Shakespeare's works are open to varying interpretations, and explore those interpretations with other students and the instructor, as well as through analysis of film adaptation. | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| The Histories and Tragedies | 1. Expand understanding of Shakespeare's stylistic predilections and the relationship between his works and the culture in which they were produced. | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| The Comedies and Romances | 1. Develop the ability to comprehend and appreciate Shakespeare's language. | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Dramatic Poetry | 1. Explain the relationship between Shakespeare's source materials and his works. | 6 | 0 | 0 |

Total Contact Hours

| Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| 45 | 0 | 0 |