

### Course Objectives:

- To acquaint students with some of Shakespeare's major plays
- To place Shakespeare in his historical and cultural context
- To enable students to engage in independent reading in the rich world of Renaissance drama

### Learning Outcomes: Students should

- Know the life and the major achievements of William Shakespeare
- Have an idea about drama in Shakespeare's age and the cultural background to the period
- Be able to appreciate and discuss Shakespeare's plays and dramaturgy
- Read plays critically and
- Use appropriate analytical and critical skills when reading plays

### Methods of Teaching: A variety of methods will be used including:

- Lectures on the biographical, cultural and historical background
- Intensive analysis of acts and scenes
- Group discussion of aspects of Shakespearean dramaturgy
- Video films of the selected plays
- Short presentations by students on selected subjects and themes

### Tests and Evaluation:

Midterm Exam: 30%;                      Presentation 10 %                      Participation 10%  
Final Exam: 50 %.

Textbooks: New Swan or any comparable or annotated edition of the following plays:

1. *Julius Caesar*
2. *Romeo and Juliet*
3. *Othello*

### Study Plan:

Week 1 : Introduction and Orientation; Elizabethan and Shakespearean background  
Weeks 2-5 *Julius Caesar*  
Weeks: 6-9: *Romeo and Juliet*  
Midterm Exam: 30% Tuesday

Weeks 10-14: *Othello*

Week 16: Revision and Final Exam: 50%.

In each play attention should be given to

- Conventions of the Elizabethan stage
- Sources and resources
- Plot development
- Imagery
- Characterization
- Symbolism
- Themes
- Critical approaches
- Language and style

#### References:

Bayley, P. C. *An ABC of Shakespeare: His Plays, Theatre, Life and Times*. Beirut and London: Longman, 1985.

Bradley, A. C. *Shakespearean Tragedy*. London: Macmillan, 1904.

Spurgeon, Caroline. *Shakespeare's Imagery*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935.

Tilyard, E. M. W. *The Elizabethan World Picture*. London: Chatto and Windus, 1943.

Thompson, P. *Shakespeare's Theatre*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983.

Traversi, D. A. *Shakespeare: The Roman Plays*. London: Hollis and Carter, 1963.

**N. B.** Students are also advised to read specialized notes on individual plays and to look for more source and background material online.