



Shakespeare

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
ENGL 5773 Section X20
Spring 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Peter Fields, Assoc. Prof. of English
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Office hours: MW: 12:15 – 2:15 PM; F 12:00 – 4:00 PM. And by appointment.
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Course Description

Shakespeare's art and thought as seen in drama and poetry.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Ebook for *The Norton Shakespeare* 3E Stephen Greenblatt, General Editor.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring and homework help for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Check the [TASP webpage](#) for times.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). *The use of AI at any stage of the composition of an assignment is prohibited, and that prohibition applies to all our assignments. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
2 Sonnet Worksheets – 5 points each; Tuesday 6 PM ZOOM reading.	10 points
4 Brief Responses – 5 points each; Tuesday 6 PM ZOOM reading.	20 points
4 Essays – 10 points each Partial ZOOM reading Tuesday 6 PM	40 points
Research Paper (using our ebook's critical apparatus)– 10 points; incl. Tuesday 6 PM ZOOM slideshow	30 points
Total Points	100 points

Table 2: Letter grade point values. Note: there is no rounding up of assignment grades and no rounding up of final calculated grade as computed by D2L: e.g., a 79.9 is a C; an 89.9 is a B; a 69.9 is a D; a 59.9 or lower is an F. D2L's final calculated grade is the semester grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades provide a snapshot of student progress just prior to the midpoint of the semester. Completed assignments as of week seven will include two Sonnet worksheets, 4 Brief Responses (two for *MSN* and two for *Rom.*), and one Essay (for *MSN*). The grades will be averaged together with the Essay counting twice.

Final Exam

We do not have a final exam.

Extra Credit

Students may rewrite essays for higher grade after first receiving approval and establishing with the instructor the nature and scope of the rewrite.

Late Work

If D2L indicates an assignment is late, it is penalized 10 points. Late sonnet worksheets, brief essays, and essays must be submitted before 11:59 PM Friday May 8; a late research paper must be submitted before 11:59 PM Monday May 11.

Forgiveness of Late Penalty

Forgiveness of late penalty requires compelling documentation. The most compelling would be medical. Students may take a picture with their cellphone of medical-related paperwork that features a date and their name and email to me by attachment.

Important Dates [Academic Calendar](#).

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23.
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 16.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29
- For more information, refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

The instructor must submit attendance for online courses at the start of the semester. Students must demonstrate login activity on D2L in order to be counted present the first week usually as of the third or fourth day. I would like to see login activity starting Tuesday of our first week.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time**

to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

The 4 Brief Response assignments are opportunities to develop your thoughts and receive input from the instructor prior to incorporating them into the 4 Essays or the Research Paper. The Research paper may incorporate language and thoughts from the Essays.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. Two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUREady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 1/20	Getting started. Read introductory material in Greenblatt.	6 PM Zoom Tuesday
Week 2 1/26	Read Acts 1- 4 of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (<i>MSD</i>). Brief Response Prompt: How does passion undermine reason in the behavior of Egeus, Hermia, Helena, Oberon, Titania, and Bottom? 400 words – no quotes. Tuesday reading.	Brief Response 1 due Friday 1/30 (but Zoom reading 6 PM Tuesday 1/27)
Week 3 2/2	Read Act 5 of <i>MSD</i> . Brief Response prompt: Notice the explicit connection between passion and self-destruction. 400 words – no quotes. Sonnet Worksheet 1 reading Tuesday; due Friday in drop box.	Sonnet Worksheet 1 due Friday 2/6 (but Zoom reading 6 PM Tuesday 2/3)
Week 4 2/9	Essay 1 Prompt: What are the consequences of passion (both human and fairy) in <i>MSD</i> ? Quote at least once but do not rely on quotes—rely mostly on your words. 1200 words. Tuesday partial reading.	Essay 1 due Friday 2/13 6 PM Tuesday Zoom 2/10: partial reading of essay.
Week 5 2/16	Read Acts 1-4 of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (<i>Rom.</i>). Brief Response Prompt: What is Friar Laurence's critique of Romeo's emotions? 400 words – no quotes. Tuesday reading.	Brief Response 2 due Friday 2/20 (but 6 PM Zoom reading Tuesday 2/17)
Week 6 2/23	Read Acts 5 of <i>Rom</i> . Pay special attention to how Fr. Laurence's strategy unravels but still achieves reconciliation between the rival houses of Capulet and Montague. Sonnet Worksheet 2 reading Tuesday; due Friday in drop box.	Sonnet Worksheet 2 due Friday 2/27 (Zoom reading 6 PM Tuesday 2/24)
Week 7 3/2	Essay 2 Prompt: What are the consequences of Fr. Laurence's attempt to reconcile the houses of Montague and Capulet? Quote at least once but do not rely on quotes—rely mostly on your words. 1200 words. Tuesday partial reading.	Essay 2 due Friday 3/6. 6 PM Tuesday Zoom 3/3: partial reading
3/9-14	SPRING BREAK – No 6 PM Zoom. Campus closed.	-----
Week 8 3/16	<i>Julius Caesar</i> (<i>JC</i>) Acts 1-4. Notice how Brutus is drawn into a conspiracy whose moral justification is doubtful.	6 PM Tuesday Zoom

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 9 3/23	JC Act 5. Brief Response Prompt: What is Shakespeare's implicit argument regarding the moral justification of assassination and how does Shakespeare signal his position? 400 words – no quotes. Tuesday reading.	Brief Response 3 due Friday 3/27 (Zoom reading Tuesday 3/24)
Week 10 3/30 – 4/1 Partial Week	Essay 3 Prompt: What are the consequences for Brutus of his participation in the assassination? Quote at least once but do not rely on quotes—rely mostly on your words. 1200 words. Tuesday partial reading.	Essay 3 due MONDAY 4/6 (instead of Friday 4/3—a holiday). 6 PM Tuesday Zoom 3/31: partial reading.
4/2-4/3	Holiday Thursday and Friday – campus closed	-----
Week 11 4/6	<i>Macbeth</i> (Mac.) Acts 1-4. How does Shakespeare signal his implicit argument regarding the moral justification of Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's murderous crimes? 400 words – no quotes.	Brief Response 4 due Friday 4/10 (Zoom reading Tuesday 4/7)
Week 12 4/13	<i>Mac.</i> Act 5. Notice how deeply invested Macbeth has become in the predictions of the Weird Sisters.	6 PM Tuesday Zoom
Week 13 4/20	Essay 4 prompt: What are the consequences of Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's actions? Quote at least once but do not rely on quotes—rely mostly on your words. 1200 words. Tuesday partial reading.	Essay 4 due Friday 4/24 6 PM Zoom 4/21: partial reading
Week 14 4/27	Research Paper Prompt: For 4 characters (one from each of our plays), what are the consequences for, and the motivation behind, their decisions and actions? Quote at least once from each play but I mostly want your words. Quote once from two different preliminary essays or introductions in Greenblatt. 1600 words. ZOOM slideshows of research.	6 PM Tuesday ZOOM 4/28
Week 15 5/4	We will do slideshow sharing for 6 PM Tuesday ZOOM. Slideshows should be under 5 minutes so we can do all of them in one hour if possible.	Research Paper due Friday 5/8. Slide Show sharing Tuesday Zoom 5/5
Week 16 FINALS	We do not have a final exam.	-----