

# ENGL 6260: Shakespeare

with Brian Donovan, Spring 2019

MnSCU Course ID # 195527

## Schedule & Contact Information

Class meets 4:00–6:40 P.M. Wednesdays in Hagg-Sauer Hall room 213.

Final Meeting (not an exam): Friday 3 May 3:30–5:30 P.M., same room.

Office Phone: 755-2838

E-mail: [bdonovan\[at-sign\]bemidjstate.edu](mailto:bdonovan[at-sign]bemidjstate.edu)

Web: <http://faculty.bemidjstate.edu/bdonovan/>

Office: Hagg-Sauer 374

Office Hours:

- Mondays 9:00–9:50, 10:00–10:50, & 11:00–11:50 A.M.; & 3:00–3:50 P.M.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30–10:45 & 3:30–4:45 P.M.

## About the Course

Official Catalog Description:

6260 SHAKESPEARE (3 credits) A study of selected works of Shakespeare, with emphasis on a particular genre, such as tragedy.

The “selected works” for this term are eight plays: *Titus Andronicus*, *Coriolanus*, *King Lear*, *Richard II*, *Henry IV Part I*, *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, and *Pericles*. The first three of these are conventionally classed as tragedies, and the full title of the fourth, in the most authoritative early printing, is *The Tragedy of King Richard II*. In all four, the title characters wind up dead. Those four out of eight will have to suffice for our generic emphasis: tying Shakespeare’s infinite variety down to just a few set genres seems to me too Procrustean an approach anyhow.

Eight plays may seem few when we have twice that many meetings scheduled (if we include our slot in exam week). The idea here is to go deep not broad. For that reason, I have adopted as textbooks the Arden Shakespeare editions of these plays as separate volumes, rather than a Complete Works edition. The Ardens, with their copious scholarly introductions, annotations, and ancillary documents, are designed to support intensive study. All involved are from the newest, third series or generation of that august imprint, except *Measure for Measure*, which is from the second. Each costs on the order of \$17 for paperback or \$100 for hardcover. Either format will do nicely, but I steered the campus bookstore towards the paperbacks.

The course will be conducted as a seminar. This type of course requires a fairly small group, such as we have here. It places a high premium on participation in class discussion, which of course presupposes being present and awake with the reading done, and preferably some thoughtful questions and observations prepared. It culminates in a research paper that is not only submitted to the professor but also presented to the group, orally—not read aloud but extemporaneously summarized. Discussion, led or moderated by the student presenter, should follow and/or be interspersed. Each of you will thus get to be seminar leader for about half a regular meeting (75 minutes) late in the semester. Since these sessions and papers account for much of the course grade, seminar students may sometimes remain in the dark regarding what course grade to expect, until it is too late to do much about it. I will try to ameliorate the anxiety by checking on the papers at various stages (preliminary topic ideas, refined topic, annotated

bibliography) and communicating any doubts I feel along the way that you might not be headed for a satisfactory grade (which in graduate study is a fairly narrow band at the top of the scale).

### **Accessibility Notice**

All persons coming and behaving as students are welcome in this class. Accessibility Services will work with me to honor the purposes and guarantees of 42 U.S. Code Chapter 126, by arranging reasonable and necessary accommodations. If you require such, start with Accessibility Services (Decker 202, Box 43, 755-3883, [accessibilityservices\[at-sign\]bemidjistate.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices[at-sign]bemidjistate.edu)). Relevant disclosures direct to me are at your discretion, will be kept confidential, and may help further. Upon request we can make this syllabus itself, and other course materials, available in alternate formats.

### **A Note on Academic Integrity**

Within the culture of American Academe today, when you submit intellectual work product (such as papers) for academic credit, you are implicitly declaring that the work is your own new and original stuff, the result of your own individual thinking. Your thinking will be much enriched by others' input, we all hope; but you are expected to digest this input thoroughly and assimilate it into your own thinking, much as your body might digest the tissue of a plant or animal that you ingest as food, and convert it into your own body tissue. Facts and ideas (as well as actual wording) for which you are indebted to others must be precisely noted and carefully acknowledged, even what you have more or less thoroughly digested and assimilated—except for common knowledge, and occasional other stuff that you have been carrying around in your head so long you cannot remember where you picked it up (though the careful scholar will often track down some credible source to cite for such). Papers must also be newly produced within the space of the semester, and exclusively for this course. Demonstrable violation of these expectations, with apparent intent to deceive or defraud, will result in a failing grade for the course, and will also be reported to the appropriate university officials, which may result in yet more severe sanctions if this should thereby prove not to have been a first offense.

List of Arden Shakespeare volumes adopted, alphabetic by title, with editors, dates, & ISBNs:

*As You Like It* edited by Juliet Dusinberre  
June 30, 2006: ISBN 978-1904271222

*Coriolanus* edited by Peter Holland  
April 25, 2013: ISBN 978-1904271284

*King Henry IV, Part 1*  
edited by David Scott Kastan  
November 7, 2002: ISBN 978-1904271352

*King Lear* edited by R. A. Foakes  
May 9, 1997: ISBN 978-1903436592

*Measure for Measure* (Arden 2<sup>nd</sup> Series)  
edited by J. W. Lever  
October 12, 1967: ISBN 978-1903436448

*Pericles* edited by Suzanne Gossett  
March 31, 2004: ISBN 978-1903436851

*Richard II* edited Charles R. Forker  
March 21, 2002: ISBN 978-1903436332

*Titus Andronicus* edited by Jonathan Bate  
January 25, 2018: ISBN 978-1350030916