

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Shakespeare as Dramatist

2. COURSE CODE

ENGL3405

3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of English Language and Literature

5. PREREQUISITES

Nil

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

English

7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

This course aims to introduce students to the plays of Shakespeare and his dramaturgy. It purports to analyze Shakespearean drama in its social, cultural, and historical contexts, highlighting the influence of Medieval and Renaissance oral and stagecraft traditions in Shakespeare's world and works. Students are also required to develop their own dramatic portfolio consisting of a performance journal, performance of scenes from selected plays, and engage with and critique the changing traditions of Shakespearean criticism.

8. COURSE CONTENT

- I. Introduction: Shakespearean Drama
- II. Shakespeare: His Life and His Dramaturgy
- III. Historical Contexts: The Impact of the Renaissance in Shakespeare's World
- IV. Shakespearean Criticism: Tradition and Innovation

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

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|-------------|--|
| CILO | By the end of the course, students should be able to: |
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|--------|--|
| CILO 1 | Identify Shakespeare's plays and dramatic styles |
| CILO 2 | Contextualize the rise of Shakespearean drama in the Renaissance period |
| CILO 3 | Discuss the dramaturgy of Shakespeare |
| CILO 4 | Critically examine the evolution of Shakespearean criticism in Renaissance and post-Renaissance contexts |
| CILO 5 | Adapt and perform their own interpretation of scenes from Shakespeare's plays |

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

| CILO alignment | Type of TLA |
|----------------|---|
| CILO 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the background histories and contexts of pre-Shakespearean drama - Perform a close reading of a variety of Shakespeare's plays - Complete in-class or online discussions on assigned topics |
| CILO 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct research on the Renaissance period - Participate in lectures on theoretical and methodological issues - Complete different reading and writing assignments |
| CILO 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the dramaturgy of Shakespeare - View and discuss a dramatic re-enactment of a production according to Shakespearean stagecraft |
| CILO 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify different schools of Shakespearean criticism - Participate in oral or written presentations and document the changes of Shakespearean criticism |
| CILO 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare and rehearse a selected scene - Keep a performance journal - Perform and record selected scenes - Write peer-review reports |

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

| Type of Assessment Methods | Weighting | CILOs to be addressed | Description of Assessment Tasks |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| In-class Performance and Peer Evaluation | 20 % | 1, 3, 5 | The acting rehearsals, performance journal and peer evaluation will enable students to develop critical tools to enhance their understanding of Shakespeare's theatrical and language elements. |
| In-class Project and/or On-line | 50 % | 1, 2, 3, 4 | The in-class project and/or online assignments will prompt students to evaluate the features, styles, innovations of Shakespearean language and stagecraft, and offer a critical review of a |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|---------|---|
| Assignments | | | recorded and/or live performance. No single assignment will be weighted more than 40%. |
| Final Performance and Portfolio | 30 % | 1, 2, 5 | The final assessed performance and portfolio will test students' ability to integrate their knowledge of Shakespeare's dramaturgy, Renaissance background, with traditional Shakespearean criticism and interpretation of different scripts and performances. |

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