Shakespeare and Pop Culture
Course Syllabus
2015-2016

- Shakespeare and Pop Culture
  • NOVA Academy, Early College High School
  • Miss Thomson

Contact Information
• Office Hours - Thursday: 2:10pm – 3:10pm or by appointment
• (714) 569-0948
• elizabeth-thomson@nova-academy.org

Class Website
popcultureofshakespeare.weebly.com

Course Description
This elective course is one which will enhance students pursuits in the study of English Literature. During the length of the full school year, students will study 6 of Shakespeare’s most influential plays: Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Othello, and Hamlet. After reading each play in class for comprehension of plot, subplot, themes, and characterization students will then explore at least two popular culture adaptations in the form of Movies, TV shows, Plays, or Comic books. Students will endeavor to make connections and distinctions between the original works and adaptations while exploring explanations for any lapses in adaptations.

Course Goals
• Expose students to several of Shakespeare’s works, including comedies, tragedies, and histories
• Learn to read Shakespeare with confidence and comprehension
• Develop understanding of how to use footnotes and background essays
• Understand where the background for these plays came from (primary sources)
• Make connections between Shakespeare’s plots, themes, and characters and modern popular culture, including movies, cartoons, and comic books
• Analyze and develop unique readings of several of Shakespeare’s works and their modern adaptations

Classroom Expectations & Consequences
1.) I adhere to all rules and policies as described in the student handbook.
2.) All class members will demonstrate respect for all class members (including themselves), faculty and staff at all times.
3.) All class members will demonstrate respect for class materials and classroom environment.
   a. Students will not chew gum, eat food, or drink beverages other than clear water in the classroom
   b. Students will follow the technology use policy when using the classroom computers and chromebooks
4.) Students will not participate in any activity, which detracts from any class members’ ability to learn (this also includes themselves).
5.) Students will arrive to class on time
6.) Student will be prepared, productive, and polite
7.) If you don’t know what to do, do what is right. If you don’t know what is right, consult the student handbook.

Faculty-student communications

- All class information can be found on the course website at [http://popcultureofshakespeare.weebly.com](http://popcultureofshakespeare.weebly.com) or you can contact me via the phone number or e-mail listed above. Please do not hesitate to schedule a time with me, before or after school, for further help.
- All grades will be posted on the student portal and available to parents and students.
- Class information, documents, handouts, and some assignment submissions will take place on the class period website

Required Text

- High School Textbooks are issued free of charge to students. However, students are responsible for the care and return of these books. Students will be charged accordingly if books are lost, stolen or damaged beyond normal wear. Every student will sign a textbook authorization form accepting full responsibility for their textbooks.

Course Materials

Materials needed for this class include:
- Spiral Bound Notebook
- Pen/Pencil
- Highlighters
- Colored Pencils, Markers, Glue, Construction Paper, and other craft supplies will be helpful for some class projects- advance notice will be given before these assignments

**Please Note: A limited amount additional materials may be needed for projects and assignments throughout the year. A list of any additional materials needed will be given with the directions and grading rubric at the time the assignment is given**

Breakdown of Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Division</th>
<th>Weight of Formal Evaluation</th>
<th>Weight of Informal Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Late Work & Missing Assignments Policy
Students will be allowed to turn in late work. Late work can be turned in for up to 75% credit (If a student turns in a perfectly completed late work, the highest grade they may receive is 75%). Late work may be turned in up to two weeks prior to the close of the grading period.

Late work is to be turned in to “late” bin in my classroom. Work turned in after I have collected it for the period is considered late. In other words, if an assignment is due at the beginning of the period, but one student turns the work in at the end of the period, then the assignment is considered late.

Absent/missed assignments are accepted. Students are responsible for getting any absent work from the instructor during office hours or independent work time in class.

If a student anticipates an absence, long or short, the student should make arrangements with me beforehand. In this circumstance, due dates and assignments will be considered on an individual basis. Please see below for more information regarding absences.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent Range</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Performance Band</th>
<th>Rubric Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>More complex learning goal. An “A” means the student shows mastery of content above grade level rigor with in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what is taught in class.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Percentage Range</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Proficiency Level</td>
<td>Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>Target learning goal. A “B” means the student has completed proficient work on all course objectives at grade level rigor with no major errors or omissions.</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>Simpler learning goal. A “C” means the student has completed proficient work on the most important objectives, although not on all objectives, at below grade level rigor of what was explicitly taught in class.</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1% - 69%</td>
<td>An “F” means the student produces minimal information even with prompting. The student has completed proficient work on fewer than half of the course objectives and cannot successfully complete the next course in the sequence.</td>
<td>Below Basic &amp; Far Below</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>An “I” means the student was unable to successfully complete a course due to strenuous circumstances or as decided by administration. The student has completed proficient work on fewer than twenty-five percent of the course objectives and cannot successfully complete the next course in the sequence.</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All students hoping to attend SAC **MUST maintain** a GPA of 2.75
* All students attending SAC **MUST maintain** a GPA of 2.75

**Attendance Policy**
If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make-up missed work. If you are going to be absent for an extended period of time please arrange to get your assignments. Please see student handbook for further information regarding attendance policy.

**Media/Content**
Movie/media clips (including youtube.com, music, or audiobooks) will be used in conjunction with written text over the course of the year to emphasize themes and content of particular units. **This syllabus serves as the permission slip to view parts or all of the following films. By signing this syllabus you are acknowledging and approving the following media content use in class** **(films will be shown only when time in the course permits. This is not a guarantee that all of the following will be shown in class):**

- **The Lion King** - G
  - Tricked into thinking that he caused the death of his father, a lion cub flees and abandons his destiny as the future king.
- **West Side Story** - Unrated
  - Two youngsters from rival New York City gangs fall in love, but tensions between their respective friends build toward tragedy.
- **She’s the Man** - Rated PG-13 for some sexual material
  - When her brother decides to ditch for a couple weeks in London, Viola heads over to his elite boarding school, disguises herself as him, and proceeds to fall for one of her soccer teammates. Little does she realize she's not the only one with romantic troubles, as she, as he, gets in the middle of a series of intermingled love affairs
- **Just one of the Guys** - Rated PG-13 for some sexual material
  - Terry Griffith has got it all -- looks, popularity, the perfect college boyfriend, and an article that's a shoo-in to win her a summer internship at the local newspaper... or so she thinks...
- **The Cutting Edge** - PG
  - At the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary, we see Doug Dorsey battered in a vicious hockey game against West Germany. We then see Kate Moseley doing her program and falling when a
lift goes bad. Both have fought all their life to get to the Olympics and suddenly the dream has been shattered. The movie then follows Kate, a tempermental but talented figure skater, through many partners until finally her coach resorts to recruiting a hockey player. Through the difficult training of 15 hours of skating a day they finally prepare for Nationals and the Olympics. A romance is budding and their final show could bend or break them as they try to achieve their dreams of an Olympic Gold medal.

- Scotland, Pa.- Rated R for language, some nudity, drug content and brief violence
  o A modernized retelling of "MacBeth" set in 1970s suburban Pennsylvania. Joe McBeth, an unambitious hamburger stand employee, is driven to success by his scheming wife.
- Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead-PG
  o Two minor characters from the play, "Hamlet" stumble around unaware of their scripted lives and unable to deviate from them.
- 10 Things I hate about you- Rated PG-13 for crude sex-related humor and dialogue, alcohol and drug-related scenes, all involving teens
  o A new kid must find a guy to date the meanest girl in school, the older sister of the girl he has a crush on, who cannot date until her older sister does.
- Much Ado about Nothing (1993)-Rated PG-13 for momentary sensuality-
  o Young lovers Hero and Claudio, soon to wed, conspire to get verbal sparring partners and confirmed singles Benedick and Beatrice to wed as well.
- Get Over It- Rated PG-13 for some crude/sexual humor, teen drinking and language
  o When Berke Landers, a popular high school basketball star, gets dumped by his life-long girlfriend, Allison, he soon begins to lose it. But with the help of his best friend Felix's sister Kelly, he follows his ex into the school's spring musical. Thus endues a love triangle loosely based upon Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", where Berke is only to find himself getting over Allison and beginning to fall for Kelly.
- Romeo+Juliet- Rated PG-13 for scenes of contemporary violence and some sensuality
  o Shakespeare's famous play is updated to the hip modern suburb of Verona still retaining its original dialogue.
- Shakespeare in Love- Rated R for sexuality
  o A young Shakespeare, out of ideas and short of cash, meets his ideal woman and is inspired to write one of his most famous plays.
- Shakespeare: The Animated Tales- Unrated
  o Condensed animated adaptations of plays by William Shakespeare in animated format. Intended for an adolescent audience.

**Plagiarism**

NOVA Academy ECHS consider plagiarism and falsification of documents, including documents that are not academically related, a serious matter and will result in disciplinary and/or academic consequences.

Cheating is using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in an academic exercise. Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in an academic exercise. Any student who helps another student fabricate, cheat, or plagiarize will be considered to have committed the same offense. Please see student handbook for outlined consequences.
Freshman Seminar
Parent/Student Contract and Contact Information

Parent or Guardian:

I, ____________________________, understand that my student is enrolled in this course and I have read through the course syllabus with my student. I have read the grading policy and classroom policy as well as the media release and have understood what is required of my student to succeed in this course.

For any questions or concerns, please contact me anytime via e-mail at Elizabeth-thomson@nova-academy.org

Parent Signature - ___________________________________________ Date - ________________

The best way to contact me is by:

Home/Work Phone: __________________________

Cellular Phone: __________________________

E-mail: __________________________

Mail: __________________________

_______________________________

Student:
I, _____________________________________, understand that I am enrolled in this course and I have read through the course syllabus with my parent/guardian. I have read the grading policy and classroom policy and have understood what is required of to succeed in this course.

Student Signature - _____________________________________  Date - ________________

Please sign and return by: _________________________