

# Course Abstract

*If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.*

*To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.*

## **Course ID and Name: ENG 234: Introduction to Shakespeare**

### **Department:**

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Michael Nester

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**Prerequisites:** ENG 122 or 125 or permission of the department chairperson

### **Co-requisites:**

**Course Description:** An introduction to Shakespeare's dramas. Students read, discuss, and write about selected histories, comedies, and tragedies. Included is a discussion of the Elizabethan theater.

**General Education Status:** Humanities

**Credits:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours:**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Interpret and analyze literature and justify their responses orally and in writing.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the formal features of literary texts and a knowledge of contexts.
3. Demonstrate the ability to paraphrase, summarize, and respond to texts by composing, through a series of drafts, coherent, persuasive, developed, and grammatical essays; compose research papers demonstrating the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize source materials and to cite this information correctly.
4. Read and be able to discuss selected comedies, tragedies, histories and sonnets by Shakespeare.
5. Identify and discuss the writing style and subject matter of Shakespeare's work in respect to its time and its relevance to contemporary audiences.
6. Analyze works in the fields of theater and literature.

### **Course Content Areas:**

1. **Research and writing:** Two research essays based on primary and secondary sources and using most recent MLA documentation style. A midterm and final examination requiring the writing of essays that make close reference to the literature studied.
2. **Reading:** Major works of Shakespeare including the sonnets, and selected plays—histories, comedies, and tragedies. Representative plays include *Richard III*, *Henry IV Part I*, *Henry V*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Tempest*, and *As You Like It*; *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.
3. **Lecture/Discussion:**
  - a. Major literary, intellectual, and historical developments, movements, and trends as seen in the works of Shakespeare.
  - b. Genres, themes, character types, motifs, archetypes and/or other basic concerns important to a basic but adequate understanding and appreciation Shakespeare's works.
  - c. Literary devices such as plot, theme, point of view, character development, tone, setting, prosody and/or figurative language to the degree that each affects the literature in which it is found.