Jerash University

**Course Syllabus**

**Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama (0102351)**

**Fall 2020-2021**

**Course/Instructor Information**

Course Code : (0102351)

Course Title : Renaissance Drama and Shakespeare

Credit Hours : 3

Pre-requisite :

Venue : Farahidi 417

Delivery Mode : Lectures and presentations

Day(s) and Time : 12:30 – 14:00, Sun Tues

Instructor Name : Dr. Mufeed Hawamdeh

Email :

Office Location : 315

Telephone Extension :

Office Hours : TBD

**Course Description**

The course aims to introduce Shakespeare's literature within Elizabethan context to students of English. There will be a close reading of *The Merchant of Venice*. Students are expected to recognize the major traits of Renaissance poetry and drama, and the creativity and theatrical energy of the Shakespearean art. It is hoped that students can identify the reasons behind the popularity of Shakespeare and the distinction and dynamism of his literary work. There theme of spatial rhythm will be highlighted. The polarity of space, concerns, and gender will be given some emphasis.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the semester students are expected to:

* have a reasonable idea about the literature of Shakespeare in the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods,
* have an idea about the contribution of Shakespeare in drama,
* be able to read and understand a Shakespearean text,
* recognize some of the Shakespearean stylistic and linguistic devices, and how they serve to advance the meaning of the plays,
* be aware of Shakespeare's means of characterization,
* know how Shakespeare enriches the meaning of his drama by using spatial rhythm, polarity, figurative language, the connotations of which give possibilities of multiple interpretations of the plays,
* be aware of the scarcity of stage directions in Shakespeare's plays and the results of that,
* know how the playwright furnishes the setting of the plays.

**Reading Materials, References and Resources**

Textbooks :

* William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, Beirut: York Classics, 2015.

**Learning/Teaching Strategies**

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions on the nature of dramatic art and the plays to be covered. They are encouraged to read more about the plays than is given by the instructor.

Students will be assigned to read about the given plays and give presentations on them. The instructor will then lead the students in a discussion about the assigned play so that students can be clear about the major features and dramatic style of the work and the author.

**Weekly Course Outlines**

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| **Week No.** | **Topics/Activities to be Covered** |
| Week 1 | Introduction: the age of Shakespeare, |
| Week 2 | Introduction: Shakespeare works, features of his works |
| **Week 3** | *The Merchant of Venice,* characters |
| **Week 4** | *The Merchant of Venice* , Venice |
| **Week 5** | *The Merchant of Venice* , Venice vs. Belmont |
| **Week 6** | *The Merchant of Venice* , Antonio vs. Portia |
| **Week 7** | *The Merchant of Venice* , Antonio vs. Shylock |
| **Week 8** | *The Merchant of Venice* , comedy  **First Midterm** |
| **Week 9** | *The Merchant of Venice* , the meaning of space |
| **Week 10** | *The Merchant of Venice* , the structure of the play |
| **Week 11** | *The Merchant of Venice* **,** the plot  **Christmas** |
| **Week 12** | *The Merchant of Venice* **,**  Dionysian vs. Apollonian worlds  **Second Midterm Tues. 1 Jan. New year** |
| **Week 13** | *The Merchant of Venice* , Dionysian vs. Apollonian worlds |
| **Week 14** | *The Merchant of Venice* , Dionysian vs. Apollonian worlds |
| **Week 15**  **20 – 26 Jan** | *The Merchant of Venice* , review |
| **Week 16** | **Final exam** |

**Assessment:**

Students will have two mid-term examinations (20%) each, and a final examination of (40%). 10% will go for participation in class discussions and attendance, and 10% for presentations.

**Academic Honesty & Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism and cheating in exams or presentations are unacceptable in the course. Any person that commits such acts of academic dishonesty are going to jeopardize their grades in the course.

**Course policies:**

* Absence from an exam will mean a zero in that exam unless the student presents an excuse accepted by the instructor;
* Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse accepted by the instructor;
* Attendance is obligatory and will be checked every class session;
* Cellular phones should be turned off during class sessions unless students are otherwise instructed.