



SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGICOMEDIES:

Measure for Measure

The Tempest

The Winter's Tale

First Trimester 2016

Mr. Grunner

N.B.:

Unless otherwise noted, all class meetings will be held in the Auditorium

∞ Course Description

Often referred to as Shakespeare's *romances* or *problem plays*, the works designated by Shakespeare scholars as *tragicomedies* are those which blend together elements characteristic of tragic and comedic works and therefore defy simple classification. In an effort to familiarize ourselves with this portion of Shakespeare's oeuvre, our time together will be spent reading and studying three of these works: *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, and *The Winter's Tale*. We will read these three works with an eye to teasing out a central theme they all share: the question of the possibility of forgiveness. Note that we will meet in the Auditorium: this will allow us to set parts of these works on their feet so as to more fully appreciate their having been specifically written for performance! Along with nightly reading and robust class discussion, this class will call for the composition of a critical essay and a final performance-based project (the details of which we'll discuss later in the trimester).

∞ Required Texts

Measure for Measure (Folger Shakespeare, WSP)

The Tempest (Folger Shakespeare, WSP)

The Winter's Tale (Folger Shakespeare, WSP)

*I will distribute all supplementary texts in class and via Moodle

☞ METHODOLOGY

Class discussion; student presentations; the occasional lecture; outside speakers.

☞ NUMBER OF CLASS SESSIONS

We will meet three times (3x) per cycle for forty-minute sessions save, of course, for the classes we must cancel on account of Christian Service.

☞ EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Homework: Students are expected to come to each class session (1) having read every last word of an assigned text and (2) prepared to discuss the text with the class. The success of this endeavor rests upon your shoulders.

Writing: By the midpoint of the trimester, students will compose a critical essay that proves an insightful thesis by way of sophisticated analysis of textual evidence.

Tests and Quizzes: Simply put—don't make me. If I sense that you are taking a relaxed approach to completing the assigned readings, quizzes, the likes of which you have not seen in your time at Regis thus far, shall rain down upon your heads.

Final Performance Project: Details to be announced.

Other assessments: Class participation will count for 20% of your final grade and will be determined at the end of the trimester.

☞ GRADING POLICIES

I shall calculate your final grade using the following breakdown:

Critical Essay (40%)
Final Project (40%)
Participation (20%)

☞ MISCELLANEOUS

In my experience, laptop computers are more likely to tempt a student into distraction than to aid him in his learning and note-taking. Thus, use of a laptop computer will not be permitted during class discussion. After all, when coming together as a group to discuss a piece of literature, which we have all spent time reading and thinking about, there is absolutely no need to use a laptop. Furthermore, cell phones should remain on silent and, ideally, should be left in your bags.