

TR
IGDIR UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
SYLLABUS

Course Title: Shakespeare
Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Özden DERE
Course Schedule: Wednesday / 13:00 –15:45 – 406
E-mail: ozdendere@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment

1. Course Description, Aim and Contents

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to William Shakespeare's dramatic and poetic works within their literary, historical, cultural, and theatrical contexts. It examines selected plays from different genres, including tragedy, comedy, and history—while introducing students to Shakespearean language, dramaturgy, characterization, imagery, and major thematic concerns. The course also considers the performance history and contemporary relevance of Shakespeare's works. The course aims to enable students to understand and critically analyse Shakespeare's works by developing their knowledge of Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre, dramatic genres, and early modern culture. It also seeks to improve students' ability to conduct close textual analysis, interpret Shakespeare's dramatic language, and evaluate his treatment of subjects such as power, identity, gender, love, authority, violence, and social order. The course covers Shakespeare's life and theatrical world, the structure of the Elizabethan stage, Shakespearean language and versification, and selected examples of his comedies, tragedies, and history plays. Through close reading and discussion, students examine dramatic structure, plot, characterization, soliloquy, imagery, rhetoric, and recurring themes. Selected stage and screen adaptations may also be studied to explore how Shakespeare's works have been interpreted across different historical and cultural contexts.

2. Weekly Outline

Week	Topic and Reading	Basic Concepts
1	Shakespeare's life and England	Elizabethan–Jacobean England, Renaissance humanism, Reformation
2	Elizabethan theatre and Shakespeare's language	Globe Theatre, blank verse, prose, soliloquy, dramatic irony
3	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Acts I–II	Comedy, love, authority, Athens–forest opposition
4	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Acts III–V	Metatheatre, transformation, gender, “play within the play”
5	History plays: <i>Richard III</i> I.1 and <i>Henry V</i> selections from Prologue	Kingship, national identity, history and propaganda
6	<i>Hamlet</i> , Acts I–II	Revenge tragedy, ghost, surveillance, appearance and reality

Week	Topic and Reading	Basic Concepts
7	<i>Hamlet</i> , Act III	Soliloquy, hesitation, madness, metatheatre
8	<i>Hamlet</i> , Acts IV–V	Death, revenge, agency, political disorder
9	<i>Macbeth</i> , Acts I–II	Ambition, prophecy, regicide, gender
10	<i>Macbeth</i> , Acts III–V	Guilt, tyranny, violence, equivocation
11	Shakespeare's Sonnets: 18, 55, 73, 116 and 130	Time, beauty, love, mortality, poetic immortality
12	<i>The Tempest</i> , Acts I–II	Power, exile, magic, Prospero's authority
13	<i>The Tempest</i> , Acts III–V	Colonialism, Caliban, freedom, forgiveness
14	Shakespeare's contemporary relevance	Adaptation, appropriation, performance and contemporary relevance
15	Final Exam	

3. Assessment

- **Participation** – 10%
- **Midterm Exam** – 40%
- **Final Exam** – 50%

Method of Instruction: There will be an introductory lecture each week followed by a close reading of and a class discussion of the plays.

Requirements: Attendance is obligatory. More than 12 hours of absence will result in failure. Each student is obliged to read in advance every text listed here, and those that the lecturer will name during the class. Internet is useful, but do not solely depend on it.