

# ENGLISH 5901W

## SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY AND FANTASY

<b>Professor</b>	G. Williams
<b>Office</b>	1818DT
<b>Lecture Times</b>	Tuesdays 1:00-4:00
<b>Email</b>	WebCT account
<b>Location</b>	DT 1816
<b>Phone</b>	520-2600 ext. 2334
<b>Office Hours</b>	By Appointment

### Course Description

This course will consider the force of fantasy in Shakespeare's comedies minus the three problem plays. Shakespeare wrote during a time when various institutions—the state, the church, and education—regarded the mental faculty of phantasy and its products with deep suspicion. In particular, early modern psychology depicted this faculty's images as breeding cognitive intemperance, which could jeopardize a person's ability to reason soundly and behave ethically. In the precariously balanced inner world of subjectivity, fantasy could play the role of traitor—let alone seducer, rogue, or madman—to the self and to others. Given the cultural anxieties over this unstable organ, Shakespeare's comedies appear to be at odds with themselves. They must discipline the fantasy while staging compelling theatrical illusions and fancies.

In the first few seminars, we will take into account the relationship between genre and fantasy, but will soon concentrate our energies on articulating the manifest and latent fantasies in each text and their recurrence through the other comedies. We will read Shakespeare's plays with an attention to the representations of mental interiority and also examine how his own rhetoric exploits the image and the phantasm to captivate the spectator/reader. Our analyses of fantasy will be directed but not limited by early modern historical and psychological contexts; contemporary criticism and psychoanalytic and cultural theorists, such as Freud, Lacan, Althusser, and Žižek, will enrich and nuance our critical vocabulary for dealing with the cognate issues of gender, desire, and ideology in the plays.

### Textbooks

Please buy editions in The New Folger Library Shakespeare series (Eds. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New York: Washington Square Press); otherwise, you will not be able to follow seminars closely enough. Please bring the proper textbooks to each class. Seminars constantly refer to the play text and discussion arises from specific passages that you must be able to locate immediately. On WebCT there will be posted the list of secondary sources.

## WebCT

Please note that this course will be managed with Carleton's WebCT software. Course materials, student grades, and email contact will be made available through WebCT. Other required resources will be found on WebCT too. For those students who do not have a WebCT account, please go to the Carleton.ca website. There will also be a link to a class RefWorks account, which students are expected to add to.

## Seminar Schedule

Date	Seminar
Jan. 5	Introduction
Jan. 12	Teasing out Fantasy
Jan. 19	The Comedy of Errors
Jan. 26	Love's Labour's Lost
Feb. 2	The Two Gentleman of Verona
Feb. 9	The Taming of the Shrew
Feb. 23	A Midsummer Night's Dream
March 2	The Merchant of Venice
March 9	Much Ado about Nothing
March 16	The Merry Wives of Windsor
March 23	As You Like It
March 30	Twelfth Night

## Evaluation

ASSIGNMENT	DATE DUE	LENGTH	% OF GRADE
Preparation and Participation	Throughout term		10%
Seminar Presentation/Paper	Assigned Seminar	9 pages (2250 words)	20%
Annotated Bibliography	Feb. 12	8 pages (2000 words)	20%
Research Paper	April 9	20 pages (5000 words)	50%

### Preparation and Participation

All members of the seminar are expected not only to attend all classes but also to be prepared for each class and participate fully in each one. You are expected to bring all the readings to seminar and to have read at least all the assigned readings, **both primary and secondary**. Students who miss two seminars will see their grades reduced by 5%. Students who miss more than two seminars will not pass the course. Arriving late or leaving early constitutes a missed seminar.

### Seminar Presentation/Paper

The seminar presentation is to be read from a fully written paper. The paper will be submitted at the end of the seminar. A read paper should be approximately 9 pages double-spaced, but you should practice reading it aloud, because each presentation will be timed and cut off at 20 minutes. The seminar presentation will provide an analysis of the

primary text through the assigned secondary reading. Use your own judgment when it comes to distributing your time between discussions of the primary and secondary texts.

### **Annotated Bibliography**

The annotated bibliography will be based upon the direction of your research for this class. In other words, the bibliography and the seminar presentation should mutually reinforce one another or build upon one another with an eye to your research essay. The bibliography should have 8 entries, either an article or a chapter from a book—in a few cases, an entire book. Depending upon your research topic, you may want to focus on primary texts from the period, or on secondary criticism, or on theoretical texts. Each annotation should be between 200 and 250 words. Please do not include any of Shakespeare's plays in your bibliography.

### **Research Paper**

Please do not select your paper topic before consulting with me. It is strongly recommended that you set up an appointment to discuss your ideas prior to reading week. The research paper should be 20 pages in length—neither longer, nor shorter. You are expected to build upon the research already done for your annotated bibliography, so there should be a new set of items in your research essay's final bibliography.

### **Note on Plagiarism**

Carleton University maintains a strict policy on all forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is an instructional offence, which may result in an F in a course or even expulsion from a course. Assignments must be original work that has been produced by the student only for the course; that is, the same assignment cannot be recycled for another course. All referencing must be complete and accurate for both direct and indirect quotations. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated very seriously and dealt with according to the regulations outlined in the Carleton Undergraduate Calendar, p. 52. To ensure that assignments and essays are not lost, students are required to keep an extra hard copy of their assignment before submitting it to the instructor. In the event that any questions arise concerning the sources and documentation of any written assignments, students should also keep all their research notes and drafts until the completion of the course.

### **Late Policy**

To be accepted for full value, assignments must be presented in class on the due date. Late assignments will be received for one week following the deadline, but at a cost of a daily penalty. After the grace week, students must provide a formal written request, accompanied by a valid explanation, for their late submissions to be accepted by the instructor. Students who know they will not be able to meet a particular deadline are strongly urged to contact the instructor before the due date. The instructor will deduct a penalty of 2 marks per day up to 7 days. The weekend amounts to "one day"—ie. 2 marks total (or 1 mark per day) will be deducted for Saturday and Sunday. Any papers submitted on the due date, but after the beginning of class, will be docked 1 mark. The total possible marks deducted on the last day of receipt is 12 marks (regardless of whether the paper is handed to the instructor in lecture, in the hallway, or in the office on the 7th day).

## Requests for Academic Accommodations

**For Student with  
Disabilities**

Contact Paul Menton Centre (6608) to obtain *letters of accommodations*.

**For Religious  
Observance**

To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Consult Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity))

**For Pregnancy**

Contact Equity Services (ext. 5622) to obtain *letters of accommodation*.