

English 102 Honors  
GWH 372  
12:20-1:50 p.m.  
TTH

Dr. Fischer  
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GWH 343  
office hrs: by appointment

### Composition II Honors: Shakespeare's Tragedies and the Research Paper

Shakespeare's status as a cultural icon is comparable to Jesus, Mao, and the great, Ashton Kutcher. Yet in our age of finely calibrated irony, we must ask the question: what is the big deal? Many of our archetypal characters—proud and homeless Lear, depressed and sexually confused Hamlet, love-sick and middle-aged Anthony, ambitious and ruthless Macbeth—have their source in Shakespeare, and to read him for the first time is to be introduced to a world we recognize as our own.

In addition to reading Shakespeare's tragedies, the course will be devoted to writing a thesis-driven research paper, which will include a number of different skills, such as learning how to construct a critical reading of the text using outside sources, doing research in the library and on the internet, collecting useful and legitimate sources in a working bibliography, writing a helpful rough draft, deploying the MLA style, and finally, revising, editing, and proof reading a final draft.

Note: This course is an Honors section of 102 and offers an "honors experience," to quote our beloved Dr. Eliot Stern. That means more work (reading/writing) and greater challenge overall for both student and instructor, but also, more reward.

#### **Course Design and Meeting Times**

We will be meeting in GWH 372, two days a week, that is, **Tuesday and Thursday** for regular lecture and discussion of reading assignments. We will be working on ANGEL for the rest of time—roughly the equivalent of one sixty-minute class. Usually the OL assignments will be posted on a **Monday** and will be due (also OL) on that **Sunday** of the week in question.

Assignments and announcements will also be posted on ANGEL. Go to <http://everett.angellearning.com> to access the course material. To do this you will need to have a current Everett e-mail account and SID number. For help accessing your email account or changing your password, please contact the IT helpdesk. Phone: 425-388-9333; Office: Shuksan, Room 212; email: helpdesk@everettcc.edu

#### Required Texts:

*Four Great Tragedies: Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth*, Signet Classics  
*Antony and Cleopatra*, Signet Classics  
*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*  
A good college dictionary (this is a must)

### Writing Assignments:

- 1) **Weekly Angel Assignments**—the last of which will be an **annotated bibliography** for your research paper. The exact assignments will be posted on Monday of each week. These weekly ANGEL assignments will vary depending on what we are doing that week. Some weeks you will compose a short commentary on a scene from a play; other weeks will involve some outside reading or viewing and posting to a discussion board.
- 2) **A 5-page close reading of *Hamlet* in which you also engage ONE secondary, critical source.** Specific descriptions of the paper will be handed out in class closer to the due date.
- 3) **One 15-page research paper on the tragedy of your choice.** Our coursework will culminate in this final research essay in which you propose a topic, research its parameters in the library and on the internet, formulate and develop an argument about its meaning and relevance, incorporate secondary material into that argument, and use the MLA citation format. A larger paper prompt that explains the assignment in detail will be handed out sometime in week four or five. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT RESEARCH PAPERS ELECTRONICALLY**

### Grading:

ANGEL work: 25%

*Hamlet* Paper: 25%

Research Paper: 50%

I reward effort and enthusiasm. Show up, do the reading, pay attention in class, commit yourself to learning how to write, and I will reward you with a satisfactory grade. The “A” paper is tough but not impossible to achieve and is characterized by clean writing, clear thought, and a nuanced development of your argument. The scale moves down from there: “A-,” “B+,” and “B” papers are usually characterized by a comparative lack of thought, clarity, nuance, and attention to detail in the writing. A “C” means adequate or competent work. Anything less than a “C” may mean that you are not trying hard, but not always. If you are a student who struggles with reading and writing, do not despair. I will be happy to meet with you outside of class, do extra conferences, and work with you in any way that I can.

### General comportment in a college classroom:

- 1) Come to class on time.
- 2) Do the reading.
- 3) Sit up straight.
- 4) Stay engaged.
- 5) Take notes.
- 6) Respect your fellow students.
- 7) Be tolerant of different perspectives.
- 8) Turn your cell phone off.
- 9) Do not look at the clock (at least while I’m facing the classroom).

### Attendance

Attending class regularly is important—important for you and your classmates and important for your instructor. I usually tolerate one absence. Any more than that and your chances of doing well in this class start to decline. Learning to read and write well at the college level requires a concentrated and consistent engagement with the course material and lectures on an *everyday* basis. You cannot accomplish this goal without attending class.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unauthorized borrowing of other people's words, ideas, sentences, and phrases without proper citation. It may be done on purpose with malicious intent, but it may also occur out of ignorance for the rules governing textual acknowledgement. .

**There are over ten thousand student essays on Shakespeare on the internet, and the temptation to borrow one is understandable, but that temptation will be punished by a failing grade.** It is also a lapse of student comportment that the college takes very seriously. We will be discussing how to avoid this problem throughout the quarter.

### Disability Statement:

I encourage students with disabilities and who need accommodations to contact the Center for Disability Services in the Parks Student Union Room 267 (across from the Bookstore).

### Course Schedule: (Subject to change)

#### Week 1 (April 2-6)

Begin *Hamlet*

**Friday: ANGEL work**

#### Week 2 (April 9-13)

Continue *Hamlet*

Writing the *Hamlet* paper lecture

**Thursday: first commentary due in class**

**Friday: ANGEL work**

#### Week 3 (April 16-20)

Writing the *Hamlet* paper lecture

Begin *Macbeth*

**Friday: ANGEL work**

#### Week 4 (April 23-27)

Continue *Macbeth*

**Rough draft of *Hamlet* Paper with outside source due Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in class**

**Friday: ANGEL work**

Week 5 (April 30-May 4)

**Final draft of *Hamlet* Paper with outside source due Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Begin *Antony and Cleopatra*

**Friday: ANGEL work**

Week 6 (May 7-11)

Continue *Antony and Cleopatra*

Lecture on the Research Paper

**Friday: ANGEL work**

Week 7 (May 14-18)

Lecture on Research Paper

Research and Reading for final project

**Friday: ANGEL work**

Week 8 (May 21-25)

Lecture on Research Paper

Research and Reading for final project

**Thursday: Annotated Bibliography due in class**

**Friday: ANGEL work**

Week 9 (May 28-June 1)

Reading and Writing Week

**Rough draft of research paper Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday: ANGEL work**

Week 10 (June 4-8)

Reading and Writing Week

**Final draft of research paper due Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**No Final Exam**