

University of Utah
ENGL 3850 003

TuTh 9.10am – 10.30am, LNCO 3870 Office Hours: via Zoom, email for appointment
Spring 2025

Professor Chris Jones
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Seminar in Literary Studies (*Hamlet*)



Course Description

In this Seminar (intended as an introduction to the Major), we will study in depth one of the most famous of all texts in literary history, *Hamlet*. Harold Bloom wrote of *Hamlet*, “we seem to have read it before, even when we encounter it for the first time.” We will try to encounter it as if for the first time, and then many times over and over again. First, we will close read the play over several weeks, before going on to read a number of important critical and scholarly essays on the play, essays which will elucidate various approaches, methods and theories of English Studies. As *Hamlet* has been written about so much, and over such a long period of

time, in this way we will be able to map out a history of criticism of English literature itself. By the end of this class you won’t just know *Hamlet*, you’ll know the discipline of English Studies too!

Set Text

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*. Second Norton Critical Edition.
Ed. Robert S. Miola. New York; London: W. W Norton, 2019.
ISBN: 978-0-393-64010-6 [Norton Website](#)

Please note: you must make sure you obtain the **2nd edition** of the Norton Critical Edition. You can order it directly from Norton where it is currently a smidge more than \$20. You may find cheaper copies from other online and second-hand retailers; if you do, just be sure that you are purchasing the correct edition. Please **DO NOT** buy the ebook version to save yourself just a few dollars!! I want you to bring hard copies into class, and to annotate and write in your own books. Plenty of research indicates that when we read on screens we understand less and retain what we read for a shorter period of time. I have a no-screens policy in class. There are, however, no other books necessary for purchase for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes and Objectives

During their coursework in English 3850, students will learn to:

- Apply sustained close attention to the details of literary and other creative works and grapple with the interpretive complexities that are the building blocks of literary analysis. *Participation/Study Journal*
- Articulate how formal and structural features, compositional elements, and/or literary techniques generate thematically and symbolically meaningful relationships. *Study Journal/Final Paper*
- Craft a nuanced argument that integrates and analyzes formal and textual evidence, moves beyond the 5-paragraph essay, and achieves professional presentation. *Critical Secondary Source Review/Research Question & Thesis Abstract/Final Paper*

Assignments and Grading Breakdown

In-class participation: 10%

Study Journal: 40%

Critical Secondary Source Review: 10%

Research Question & Thesis Abstract: 10%

Final Paper: 30%

Course Grading Scale

A (94-100)	A- (90-93)	B+ (87-89)	B (84-86)	B- (80-83)	C+ (77-79)
C (74-76)	C- (70-73)	D+ (67-69)	D (64-66)	D- (60-63)	E/F (59 or below)

Course Timetable

Week 1

Jan 7th Course introduction.

Jan 9th Introduction to Shakespeare: stage, theatre and play

Week 2

Jan 14th *Hamlet*, Act 1

Jan 16th *Hamlet*, Act 1

Week 3

Jan 20th *Hamlet*, Act 2

Jan 23rd *Hamlet*, Act 2

Week 4

Jan 28th *Hamlet*, Act 3

Jan 30th *Hamlet*, Act 3

Week 5

Feb 4th *Hamlet*, Act 4

Feb 6th *Hamlet*, Act 4

Week 6	
Feb 11 th	<i>Hamlet</i> , Act 5
Feb 13 th	<i>Hamlet</i> , Act 5
Week 7	
Feb 18 th	Visit to Marriott Library, Special Collections.
Feb 20 th	Texts of <i>Hamlet</i>
Week 8	
Feb 25 th	Sources & Traditions: <i>Amleth</i>
Feb 27 th	Sources & Traditions: rhetoric
Week 9	
Mar 4 th	Sources & Traditions: <i>Spanish Tragedy</i>
Mar 6 th	Sources & Traditions: Aristotle (& neoclassical criticism)
Week 10	SPRING BREAK
Week 11	
Mar 18 th	Modern Critical Approaches to <i>Hamlet</i> , 1
Mar 20 th	Modern Critical Approaches to <i>Hamlet</i> , 2
Week 12	
Mar 25 th	Modern Critical Approaches to <i>Hamlet</i> , 3
Mar 27 th	Modern Critical Approaches to <i>Hamlet</i> , 4
Friday 28 th	Study Journal Completed
Week 13	
Apr 1 st	Further reading of secondary literature (self-study in Marriott)
Apr 3 rd	Further reading of secondary literature (self-study in Marriott)
Friday 4 th	Critical Review of Secondary Literature due
Week 14	
Apr 8 th	<i>Hamlet</i> in performance, 1
Apr 10 th	How to Write a Thesis Paper, 1
Week 15	
Mon 14 th	Research Question and Thesis Abstract due
Apr 15 th	How to Write a Thesis Paper, 2

Apr 17th Drafting and Editing Papers

Week 16

Apr 22nd *Hamlet* in performance, 2 & Course Conclusion

Friday 2nd May **Final Paper due**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

[[Mandatory institutional policies can also be found online here.](#)]

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodation. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University, see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you need accommodations in this class, or for more information about support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability and Access

801-581-5020

disability.utah.edu

65 Student Services Building

201 S 1460 E

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

SAFETY AT THE U

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

Campus Police and Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

ADDRESSING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as

race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

Title IX Coordinator and Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

801-581-8365

oeo.utah.edu

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Office of the Dean of Students

801-581-7066

deanofstudents.utah.edu

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

Center for Campus Wellness

801-581-7776

wellness.utah.edu

350 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

“includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.”

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)