

### Course description

Shakespeare is a semester-long English literature course in which we read and analyze several plays by Shakespeare, watch films of the plays, read about Shakespeare the writer and his times, do writing assignments, and generally immerse ourselves in Shakespeare.

### Content standards

All six of the Colorado model content standards for reading and writing for high school students are addressed in this class. Reading Shakespeare's plays out loud and discussing the language line by line improves students' reading skills, requires critical thinking and analysis, and deepens comprehension. Written work in class and at home hones writing skills and improves speech skills. Students read or reference plays, books, internet sites, and films inside and outside of class. Finally, Shakespeare is the great master of the human experience and students see life refracted through his plays.

### Course goals

What is the one main goal for taking the course? *Each student will read and understand several plays by Shakespeare and finish the course with confidence that he/she can continue to read and enjoy Shakespeare for years to come.*

- What are the distinct goals that would help a learner to achieve the main goal? *Learners need to attend class faithfully and participate fully in class reading and discussion; and complete reading, writing, and arts homework.*
- What weekly or monthly progress goals (small steps toward the larger goal) will be measured? *Class participation and homework completion.*
- What is the frequency for the progress goals—weekly or monthly? *Either we read the play together successfully as a class, day by day, and students turn in homework, day by day, or they don't. So—weekly progress goals.*
- How will the learner and the educator know that the main class goal was met? *Students will demonstrate through their class participation that they can read, analyze, and understand Shakespeare's text.*

### Learning Relationships

Students work together in class with each other and the teacher to read plays out loud and discuss until they understand them. Courtesy, mutual respect, good listening skills are essential.

### Learning Setting

We meet three hours per week in the library at Vision building; students do homework at home and in the library.

### Learning Resources

Shakespeare's plays; books and articles about Shakespeare that I assign; films of plays that I show; films about Shakespeare that I show; live performance.

### Learner Actions

Reading; writing; arts/crafts as assigned (like costume making, creating dioramas, cooking Elizabethan-era foods)

### Course Assessments

I will assess students based on attendance; attitude; class participation; completion and quality of homework.