

*Undergraduate Shakespeare*, Fall 2006  
Prof. Don McDermott,  
Office: 704, ext. 2963

*Class Objective:*

William Shakespeare is believed to have written 38 plays, as well as over 140 sonnets. The purpose of this class cannot be to introduce all of these works to the students; rather the objective of this class will be to acquaint students with a small selection of some of the best plays and sonnets by William Shakespeare. To this end, students will view many of these plays on DVD. In addition there will be a careful study of several major texts and unfortunately only brief overview of others.

*Texts:*

*The Taming of the Shrew, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, Hamlet, and Othello.*

(I will require the Signet Classic or Penquin editions if available. Exceptions can be made for students who have collected works.)

*Schedule:*

First term students will be introduced to some of Shakespeare's sonnets (provided by handout) and Shakespeare's comedies: *Taming...*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado...*, and *Twelfth Night*. There will be a midterm (50% of final grade) and a final exam covering all of the plays studied (50% of final grade).

Second term students will study the following tragedies: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*. Again, there will be a midterm and a final exam covering plays studied second term.

*Class Policies:*

Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than two classes without prior permission or due to an emergency will lose up to 10% of their final grade.

Cheating on quizzes or exams will result in a failing grade.