

LSHS 385-01 THE PLAYS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE FALL, 2008
(Revised 04/07/08)

Wednesday, 6:15 to 9:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will consider five of Shakespeare's most popular plays, two tragedies, two comedies, and one history play. While it will survey many of the significant issues in Shakespeare studies today, its focus will be on performance (how the scripts were brought to life on Shakespeare's stage and how they continue to be brought to relevant life on the contemporary stage) and on the meanings that performance makes for an audience.

TEXTS

(Signet Classic Shakespeare)

**Macbeth / As You Like It / Henry IV, Part I
The Merchant of Venice / King Lear**

PLAN OF THE COURSE

Sep 3	Introductions / Shakespeare's Plays in Performance
Sep 10	<i>Macbeth</i>
Sep 17	No Class
Sep 24	<i>Macbeth</i> / Introduction to Shakespeare's Comedy
Oct 1	<i>As You Like It</i>
Oct 8	No Class
Oct 15	<i>As You Like It</i> / <i>1 Henry 4</i>
Oct 22	Trip to the Theatre (See Note 2 Below)
Oct 29	<i>1 Henry 4</i> / <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
Nov 5	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> / Shakespeare's Stage
Nov 12	<i>King Lear</i>
Nov 19	<i>King Lear</i> / Conclusions

ASSIGNMENTS

- (1). A short paper on a topic to be assigned. It will probably be due on October 15.
- (2). Two short papers (or one long one) on a topic or topics to be assigned. This assignment will be due after the course is completed on a date to be determined.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Although it seems unlikely now, if one of the scheduled classes has to be canceled, it will be made up on Wednesday, December 3, 2008.
2. The course will require students to attend a performance of *Henry IV, Part 1* at the Folger Theatre in Washington. A block of tickets will be purchased for a Wednesday evening, and students will attend the performance in lieu of class. The date will probably be October 22, although the availability of tickets will finally determine the actual date. If tickets are not available for October 22, the plan of the course will be adjusted to make the trip to the theatre possible on another Wednesday evening.

Disabilities Statement:

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.