SYLLABUS AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

(Course Description):
AIMS:
(1) To enjoy some fascinating company — fictional people from another time who are unlike most of us in politics, society, and religious belief, and yet are surprisingly like us in psychology, group behavior and aspirations.
(2) To have you stretch your learning skills by understanding complex concepts as well as some connections between the past and the present.
(3) To have you stretch your language skills by mastering some puzzling language and poetic diction.
(4) To practice 'making a case' in an unfamiliar field by writing 'units of argument' which combine Assertion and Support.

By the end of the course, you will be able to read and understand Shakespeare’s language, and will know something about human nature, at least as it was understood in the 20 years either side of 1600 and to some extent today as well.

METHODS: We will work through four plays in a fair amount of depth, with lecture, discussion, and some reading of the play in class. Treatment of each play concludes with in-class performances (book-in-hand, minimal or nonexistent props, costumes, and scenery) of selected scenes by the “Exaggerated Shakespeare Company” (that’s you).

READINGS (all ordered in the Signet edition, but others OK so long as you borrow a Signet for the Article assignment):
William Shakespeare, Henry 5.
William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night’s Dream
William Shakespeare, King Lear
ASSIGNMENTS:
(1) **Character** report: 5-minute oral report, followed by a written version, on one of the characters in one of the 4 plays (value TBA, probably 100 pts)
(2) Oral report (10 minutes) on an **article** in a Signet ed or another article on some aspect of one of the plays (value TBA, probably 100 pts)
(3) Exaggerated Shakespeare Company: Text-in-hand group performance of an assigned scene from one of the plays, including some writing (100 points, 50 determined by the instructor, 50 by the other members of your group). Other tasks may be substituted for acting in cases of extreme performance anxiety (by arrangement with group members).
(4) No Exam.

COURSE TOTAL: probably 300 points, your %age of which (to the nearest integer) determines your course grade: A=90-100, AB=87-89, B=80-86, &c).

THE FINE PRINT (attendance, late work, people with disabilities, &c):
**Attendance**: Absences not excused in advance (that is, before I start a class) will cost you 5 points each after the first 3. Excuses must be pretty good. Save your 3 absences for weddings, family events, and that sort of thing.
**Late Work**: Work is due at the beginning of class (that is, when I get there) on the due day announced in the syllabus. Extensions will be given only for unforeseeable emergencies; in the case of foreseeable absences such as plant trips, weddings, or family events, you should arrange to have the work handed in at or before the due time. Unexcused late work will lose 5% of the grade (usually grade work out of 100 initially) for every 24 hrs (or part) until it arrives in my hands. The last class meeting is an absolute deadline for any late work — nothing will be accepted after that except by prior arrangement, and that will be given only if you’ve been sick enough to get a medical excuse and have had insufficient time to recover, or or have had unavoidable, extended, and unexpected travel. If you anticipate interview or athletic travel, (neither of which are ever unexpected), you will need to do your written work ahead of time.
**Changes in Syllabus**: Though I will try not to do so, I reserve the right to make adjustments in course content or syllabus in response to my assessment of pedagogical needs. Please read and follow assignment instructions carefully; they have been carefully thought out and revised, usually over many terms. If you notice any conflicts or discrepancies between versions of assignments, for instance between handouts and oral directions or between different handouts, please tell me.
**Disabilities**: MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (487-2212). For other questions about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, your department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

**SYLLABUS**

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>Renaissance worldview</td>
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<td>Renaissance worldview cont.; <em>Henry V</em> begun</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M.L.K. Jr. Day: no class</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td><em>Henry V</em> cont</td>
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3 M Henry V cont.
W Henry V cont. 3 "article" assignment presentations (Group C).
F Henry V cont. 3 "article" assignment presentations (Group C).

4 M Henry V, Act Sc. rehearsal (courtship of "Kate")
F Midsummer Night's Dream begun. 6 Henry V "Character" assignments due.

5 M Midsummer Night's Dream cont.
W Midsummer Night's Dream cont.
F Midsummer Night's Dream cont.

6 M Midsummer Night's Dream cont.
W Midsummer Night's Dream cont.
F Midsummer Night's Dream cont. 3 "article" assignment presentations (Group D).

7 M Midsummer Night's Dream cont. 3 "article" assignment presentations (Group D).
W Midsummer Night's Dream rehearsals (Mocking of Helena, Pyramus & Thisbe)
F Midsummer Night's Dream performances (Groups B & C)
SPRING BREAK

8 M King Lear begun. 6 MSND "Character" assignments due.
W King Lear cont.
F King Lear cont.

9 M King Lear cont.
W King Lear cont.
F King Lear cont.

10 M King Lear cont. 3 "article" assignment presentations (Group B).
W King Lear cont. 3 "article" assignment presentations (Group B).
F King Lear rehearsals (Blinding of Gloucester, Cliff at Dover)

11 M King Lear rehearsal (Conclusion), performance (Group C, Blinding of Gloucester)
W King Lear performances (Group A, Cliff at Dover, Group D, Conclusion)
F  The Tempest begun. 6  King Lear “Character” assignments due.
12 M  The Tempest cont.
W  The Tempest cont.
13 M  The Tempest cont.
W  The Tempest cont.
F  The Tempest cont.
14 M  The Tempest cont. 3 “article” assignment presentations (Group A).
W  The Tempest cont. 3 “article” assignment presentations (Group A).
F  The Tempest cont. 6 Tempest “Character” assignments due.
15 M  The Tempest rehearsals (Caliban’s entrance, Insurrection)
W  The Tempest performances (Groups B & D)
F  Wrap-up and evaluations.