Course Title: HU 3513 Shakespeare II

Description: In-depth study of a limited number of Shakespearean plays with special attention to dramatic structure, character development, theme presentation, and theatre history. Includes extensive study of Renaissance influences, possibly film versions of selected plays, and examination of current critical theories.

Term: Spring 2009

Contact Information:
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Office Hours: 5:00 – 6:45 Wednesdays

Required Texts: The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare – Russ McDonald

Selected Shakespearean Plays –
A MidSummer Night’s Dream
The Taming of the Shrew
The Merchant of Venice
Julius Caesar
King Lear

Course Content: Shakespeare is touted as the world’s greatest playwright, rightly so according to the number of tickets that have been sold 400 years after his time. We shall delve into the veracity of this claim through careful examination into the culture that created such a prolific author. During the course, we will study the structure, theme, and form of the plays in addition to reading and discussing sections of the McDonald text. Viewings of professional videos/movies and in-class readings will allow us to ‘hear’ how Shakespeare is meant to sound. A thorough examination of his craft, including dialogue, staging, and development is crucial to understanding the plays fully. Students will be assigned specific features to examine more closely – through Webquests, research, and/or other modes appropriate for the course. They will be required to relate their research to the class. Probable assignments include a mid-term, paper, and final.