MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ENGL 3221 Shakespeare's Legacy: Brightest Heaven of Invention
Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An in-depth look at Shakespeare's plays and contributions to our world. This course emphasizes an advanced understanding of Shakespeare's life, language, and works through close reading and analysis. We continue the development of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Focusing primarily on Shakespeare's plays, students will study Elizabethan historical and sociological contexts, explore Biblical archetypes, and identify and analyze recurring images, themes, and characters. Students will also explore elements of poetry, literary archetypes (like tragedy and comedy), and Elizabethan theatre. The course aims at sharpening students' skills in close reading by perceiving patterns in language and literature. Vocabulary is further developed and is literature-based. Finally, students will learn to interpret Shakespeare's plays with "the mind of Christ," learning to judge characters and themes according to godly wisdom.

Curricular Mapping:

This course will continue to develop student skills specifically in the area of literary analysis and understanding. It will also develop critical thinking skills as students synthesize not only the historical contexts and literary elements in Shakespeare's texts but also the mythological and biblical allusions that pervade them as well.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Understand Shakespeare's language, including (but not limited to) unfamiliar words, familiar words used in old ways, omissions, and unique word arrangements.
2. Understand Elizabethan theatre practices and stage directions.
3. Understand how performance criticism can enhance the reading of Shakespeare's texts and the viewing of modern theatrical/film productions of the plays.
4. Articulate reactions to Shakespearean drama through writing and discussion.
5. Value and evaluate a variety of opinions about the plays and films/live performances.
6. Identify the dramatic elements of the plays such as structure, character, theme, language, etc.
7. Understand the connection between action and the consequences of those actions.
8. Interpret literature and analyze complex ideas.
9. Recognize, discuss, and write about universal themes in literature.
10. Compare and contrast characters and plays.
11. Demonstrate text comprehension by summarizing and paraphrasing acts, scenes, and lines.

12. Sharpen reading abilities and expand comprehension skills.
13. Compare and contrast Shakespearean plot with subplots and understand the concept of "foiling."
14. Compare and contrast poetic devices such as simile, metaphor, symbol, allegory, irony, alliteration, consonance, assonance, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, personification, allusion, and epithet.
15. Identify, define, and analyze point of view, setting, tone, characterization, conflict, plot, climax, chronological order, motif, archetype.

Texts:
● Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a "Required Course Materials Fee" thru the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the 16-17 School Year icon on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Grading:

Grade Book Categories		Semester Weighted Grading Configuration	
Homework	20%		
Classroom Discussion		Quarter	45%
& Diligence	20%	Quarter	45%
Essays, Tests, & Quizzes	60%	Final	10%

Binder, iPad: You must have a well-organized system for keeping your course papers and notes. Your teacher will inform you of any specific expectations in your class.

High School Standard Grading Policy:
Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Parent-Student Handbook.

Class Policies:
1. *Attendance*: You are responsible to make up any missing work due to your absence. Please turn in work before you leave for a planned absence. Please check the blog when you have missed a class.
2. *Tardy*: You must be in your seat with your course materials before the bell rings to be considered timely.
3. *Classroom etiquette:* We expect responsibility and respect (to us and your peers); those are the prerequisites to godly success ("Honor your father and mother, that it may go well

with you in the land"; "Love your neighbor"; "Do all things as unto the Lord"). Offenders can expect a warning, extra assignments, and (if it persists) an infraction.

4. *Late Work*: Late homework (aside from excused absences) receives a 50% grade reduction. Late essays and projects receive a 20% grade deduction for day one and 10% reduction (beyond the 20%) each day following.

5. *Plagiarism/Cheating*: This is treated in the Student Handbook. If you have any questions about this topic, read the handbook and ask your instructor or an administrator. Know that <u>Bedford 55</u> presents strategies for avoiding plagiarism. <u>For any plagiarism, intentional or accidental, the instructor will issue an infraction and a zero for the assignment</u>.

6. *iPads*: These are tools for learning. You may not play video games, message friends, or otherwise get off task. Please edit your auto-notifications to turn off such impositions; they will distract you. If you finish an assignment early, read your next book or review your memorization or notes. Those who are distracted will need to leave their iPad with their teacher or Mrs. Larson for the class or day and will receive an infraction.

<u>School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs)</u>:
Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.