SYLLABUS

HTA 300 (16846) THE SHAKESPEAREAN CONTEXT, Fall 2006

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:20, Babcock

Instructor: Humphrey Tonkin (tonkin@hartford.edu)
Office: Mortensen Library, Room 307. Office telephone: 768-4448
Home telephone: 561-2669 Home fax: 561-5219
Website: http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/TONKIN/intro.html
Admin. Asst. Judy Kacmarcik, Mortensen Library, 2nd Flr., 768-4269
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 or by appointment.

Course Objectives:
To provide students with an understanding of the historical, literary, and stylistic
background to Shakespeare.

Student Skills to be Developed:
1. Understanding and reading Shakespearean blank verse and other verse effectively.
2. Familiarity with the history of the period, including the history of style and taste.
3. Ability to analyze and explicate a text.

Required Texts:
Students should buy the following. No other edition will do.
   Martin’s
   Vaughan, Arden Shakespeare Series
Students should also own a good edition of Shakespeare’s collected works.
The Oxford English Dictionary is now available on line through the library. Students are
expected to make good use of it.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all sessions, unless they have notified the
instructor in advance and made arrangements to cover the material missed.

E-mail:
Students are expected to have a working e-mail address capable of receiving individual
messages and messages to the class as a whole. They are expected to check it regularly.

Assignments:
• A first paper will be due on Wednesday, September 27.
• A second paper will be due on Monday, November 13.
• A final paper will be due on Monday, December 11.
• There will be additional short written assignments.
• There will be a final examination, either in-class or take-home.
• There may be additional spot quizzes.

Grading:
• The three papers will account for 40% of the grade.
• Additional short assignments will account for 20%.
• There will be an additional grade (20%) for class participation. Unexcused absences will negatively affect this grade.
• The final examination will account for 20% of the grade.
• Papers and other assignments must be handed in on time. Late papers and other assignments will be docked one grade per day late.
• All work for the course must be completed in order to receive a final grade.
• Students who wish to rewrite papers should talk with the instructor.

A Reminder:
Academic Honesty. All the work you submit in this course should be your own, and any sources of information consulted in the completion of that work – including but not limited to friends, other instructors, books, articles, and internet sources – must be acknowledged in the conventional manner (quotation marks, footnotes, bibliography, etc.). Any breach of the Academic Honesty Policy set forth in The Source and in the Manual of Academic Policies and Procedures will result in failure on the relevant assignment (with no possibility of revision and/or resubmission) and may be grounds for failure in the course. In extreme cases, academic dishonesty may result in suspension or dismissal from the university.

Provisional Schedule
(subject to change as the semester progresses)

August

30 Wed.  Introduction.  
Blank verse: an exercise in scansion.  
Assignment.  Read The Tempest

September

4 Mon.  [Labor Day]

6 Wed.  The Tempest – Introduction  
Blank verse  
Scansion exercise due  
A second verse exercise  
Assignment.  Read McDonald ch. 1 (biography) & ch. 2 (language)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Mon.</td>
<td><strong>Understanding the verse</strong>&lt;br&gt;Second verse exercise due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Wed.</td>
<td><em>The Tempest</em> Act 1&lt;br&gt;<em>Shakespeare’s biography</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Assignment.</strong> Read McDonald ch. 3 (dramatic kinds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mon.</td>
<td><strong>Literary antecedents</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Assignment.</strong> Read Sonnets 3 (Look in thy glass), 18 (Shall I compare thee), 19 (Devouring time), 20 (A woman’s face), 30 (When to the sessions), 55 (Not marble), 65 (Since brass nor stone), 73 (That time of year), 97 (How like a winter), 111 (Let me not), 129 (Th’expense of spirit), 130 (My mistress’ eyes), 138 (When my love swears), 146 (Poor soul).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Wed.</td>
<td><em>The Sonnets</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>The canon</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Assignment.</strong> Read McDonald ch. 4 (theatre and performance) Paper 1 (on the canon) assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Mon.</td>
<td><em>The Tempest</em> Act 2&lt;br&gt;<em>The plays</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Wed.</td>
<td><em>The theatre</em>&lt;br&gt;Paper 1 due&lt;br&gt;<strong>Exercise on the text assigned</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Assignment.</strong> Read McDonald ch 5 (Shakespeare’s reading) &amp; ch. 6 (text) Selected readings (Shakespeare’s contemporaries – Marlowe, Kyd, Jonson, Webster, Ford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mon.</td>
<td><em>The text, and Shakespeare’s reading</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Exercise on the text due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Wed.</td>
<td><em>Shakespeare’s contemporaries (1)</em>&lt;br&gt;Selected readings (literary context)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Mon.</td>
<td><em>Shakespeare’s contemporaries (2)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Assignment.</strong> Read <em>The Phoenix and the Turtle</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Wed.</td>
<td><em>The Tempest</em> Act 3&lt;br&gt;<em>The literary and artistic context (1)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Exercise on the literary context</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Assignment.</strong> Read McDonald ch. 7 (town and country)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16 Mon. The literary and artistic context (2)
Exercise on the literary context due
Assignment. Read McDonald ch. 8 (men and women) & ch. 9 (politics and religion)

18 Wed. The Tempest Act 4
The literary and artistic context (3)

23 Mon. The political and religious context (1)

25 Wed. The political and religious context (2)

30 Mon. London life

November

1 Wed. The Tempest Act 5

6 Mon. The country
Paper 2, on The Tempest, assigned

8 Wed. Gender

13 Mon. Gender
Paper 2, on The Tempest, due
Assignment. Read selections for November 20 and 27 (from Milton, Thomson, Wordsworth, possibly others)
Brief written exercise on poetic history

15 Wed. Religion
Discussion of final papers

20 Mon. Poetic history
Assignment. Read McDonald ch.10 (stage history)

22 Wed. [Thanksgiving]

27 Mon. Poetic history

29 Wed. Stage and screen history

December

4 Mon. Stage and screen history
6 Wed. Stage and screen history

11 Mon. Conclusion
Final paper due

June 27, 2006