








English (ENGL) 324



Shakespeare I (Revision 5)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online  with Video component  (Overseas students, please contact the University Library before registering in a course that has an audio/visual component)
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Humanities
Prerequisites:	ENGL 211 and ENGL 212 or equivalent first year English courses, or successful completion of ENGL 325 , or professor approval.
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	ENGL 324 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

ENGL 324 is an introduction to the age of Shakespeare and his plays. It will begin with an introduction to the following topics: a brief biography of Shakespeare; a crash course in the origins of Western theatre and the evolution of Shakespearean drama; an introduction to Shakespeare's political and cultural milieu; a survey of certain mysteries and critical questions about Shakespeare; and an overview of Shakespeare's English. You will then be introduced to seven of Shakespeare's earlier plays. In the units for each of these plays, you will participate in close readings and thematic investigations. In addition to thinking about these plays as literature, we will pay close attention to original staging techniques and we will perform analyses of the plays in production throughout history and into the present (as live theatre, TV, and cinema). The seven plays that you will study are *Titus Andronicus*, *Richard II*, *Henry IV, Part One*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Twelfth Night*.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for ENGL 324, you must submit all assignments and write the final examination, and you must achieve a minimum grade of 50 percent on the final examination and a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** .

The weighting of the course assignments is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	30%
Assignment 3	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%


The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#) .

Materials

Greenblatt, Stephen, ed. *The Norton Shakespeare: Early Plays and Poems*. 3rd ed. Vol 1. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016.  (Print)

Titus. Dir. Julie Taymor. Fox Searchlight Pictures, 1999. DVD. (on library reserve for student sign-out)  (Audio/Video)

NOW: In the Wings on a World Stage. Dir. Sam Mendes. BOND360, 2014. DVD. (on library reserve for student sign-out)  (Audio/Video)

Other materials

The course materials also include an online Course Information, Study Guide, and AU Student Manual.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)
- › [Introduction Video](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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Updated March 4, 2024

View **previous revision** [↗](#)
