Dr. Amy Tigner

Office Hours 1:30-2:30 p.m. T/Th and by appointment

Carlisle

atigner@uta.edu

English 4326—001: Shakespeare and Nature

This class will take an ecocritical approach to Shakespeare, as we will study the notion of both urban and rural nature and its relationship to culture. Our study will be historical and we will discuss the landscape and environmental issues of both city and country—both in the plays and in Shakespeare’s world. The plays that we will be reading includes: *Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Winter’s Tale, King Lear, As You Like It,* and *The Tempest.* We will also be reading contemporary ecocriticism to contextualize the environmental problems of the early modern period. Students will participate by presenting group projects and contributing to the class blog. At the end of the semester, students will have the option of doing a creative project that is oriented to environmental issues and Shakespeare, along with a short paper, or they can write a longer, more traditional, literary criticism paper.

Shakespeare plays we will be reading:

*Midsummer Night’s Dream*

*The Winter’s Tale*

*King Lear*

*As You Like It*

*The Tempest*

You should buy the Norton Shakespeare to read the plays. We will be using this specific text, as you will also be reading the introductions. All articles will be available on Blackboard.

This syllabus is subject to change by the professor.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Day | Date | Readings and Assignments  |
| 1 | Thurs | Aug. 21 | IntroductionGroup sign-up sheet |
| 2 | Tues | Aug. 26 | *Midsummer Night’s Dream*  Introduction, Act 1 + 2  |
|  | Thus | Aug. 28 | *Midsummer Night’s Dream*  Acts 3 + 4, Nardizzi “Introduction: Wood, Timber, and Theatre in Early Modern England”**Group 1: presentation and handout** |
| 3 | Tues | Sept. 2 | *Midsummer Night’s Dream*  Act 5; Watson “The Ecology of Self in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream”*  |
|  | Thurs | Sept. 4 | *Midsummer Night’s Dream,* Borlik, Todd “Fairy-Lore as Folk Entomology in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream”***Group 1: presentation and hand-out; Groups 1 and 2 individual paper due** |
| 4 | Tues | Sept. 9 | *The Winter’s Tale* Introduction, Acts 1+ 2  |
|  | Thurs | Sept. 11 | *The Winter’s Tale* Acts 3 + 4 |
| 5 | Tues | Sept. 16 | *The Winter’s Tale* Act 5; Tigner, “The Winter’s Tale: Gardens and the Marvels of Transformation”**Group 3: presentation and handout** |
|  | Thurs | Sept. 18 | *The Winter’s Tale* Act Munroe “Its all about the Gillyvors”; Mentz “Shakespeare and the Global Ocean”**Group 4: Presentation and hand-out; Groups 3 and 4 individual paper due** |
| 6 | Tues | Sept.23 | *King Lear* Introduction, Act 1  |
|  | Thurs | Sept. 25 | *King Lear* Acts 2 +3 |
| 7 | Tues | Sept. 30 | *King Lear* Act 4 Parr “New Directions: 'The Wisdom of Nature': Ecological Perspectives in King Lear”**Group 5: presentation and handout** |
|  | Thurs | Oct. 2 | *King Lear* Act 5  |
| 8 | Tues | Oct. 7 | *King Lear*, Estok “Dramatizing Environmental Fear…” **Group 6 Presentation and hand-out: Groups 5 and 6 individual paper due**  |
|  | Thurs | Oct. 9 | **Comprehensive Test 1** |
| 9 | Tues | Oct .14 | Out of class discussion questions |
|  | Thurs | Oct.16 | Out of class discussion questions |
| 10 | Tues | Oct. 21 | *As You Like It* Introduction, Acts 1 + 2 |
|  | Thurs | Oct. 23 | *As You Like It* Acts 3 + 4 Watson “As you Liken It”**Group 7: presentation and handout** |
| 11 | Tues | Oct. 28 | *As You Like It* Act 5;  |
|  | Thurs | Oct. 30 | *As You Like It* **Group 8 Presentation and hand-out: Groups 7 and 8 individual paper due** |
| 12 | Tues | Nov.4 | *The Tempest* Introduction, Act 1 + 2 |
|  | Thurs | Nov. 6 | *The Tempest* Acts 3 +4; Borlik “Caliban and the Fen Demons of Lincolnshire: the Englishness of Shakespeare's Tempest”**Group 9: presentation and handout** |
| 13 | Tues | Nov. 11 | *The Tempest* Act 5; Nardizzi “ ‘There’s wood enough within’…” |
|  | Thurs | Nov.13 | *The Tempest* **Group 10: Presentation and hand-out: Groups 9 and 10 individual paper due**  |
| 14 | Tues | Nov.18 | Preparation for Test |
|  | Thurs | Nov. 20 | **Comprehensive Test 2** |
| 15 | Tues | Nov.25 | Writing workshop |
|  | Thurs | Nov.27 | Thanksgiving holiday, no class |
| 16 | Tues | Dec. 2 | **Final paper/project due** |

**Evaluation:**

Participation, in-class assignments, and quizzes: 10%

Group Presentations and Handout: 10%

Individual Presentation paper (1500 words): 15%

Final project: Creative project + 5 page (1500 words) paper; or 10 page (3000 words) paper: 25%

Comprehensive Test 1: 20%

Comprehensive Test 2: 20%

**Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is required. You are allowed to miss 2 classes without any penalty; however, you should not use these days frivolously. Save them for when you are sick or have an emergency. After the two “free” days, your final grade will drop a half a grade for each absence. For example if you have an A- in the class and you miss three classes, your final grade will be a B+. It is important that you are in the classroom, alert and participating. If you decide to sleep in the class, I will ask you to leave and it will be counted as an absence. I also expect that you are on time. No texting in class—if you are texting you will get one warning and then next time I will ask you to leave class and it will count as an absence.

**Drop Policy:** Please see university drop policy and deadlines.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.  Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.   Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include  suspension or expulsion from the University.

 "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

  **Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Electronic Communication Policy:**The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students.  MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system.

All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/.

There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.