This class will focus on the plays of William Shakespeare. In particular, we will discuss some of the plays that directly relate to perennial and fundamental questions of political philosophy. These questions include various issues related to legitimate rule, from the claims of nobles and plebeians to the divine right of kings to nature and convention. While focusing on the stories themselves, we will look to how the characters, speeches, and deeds reflect upon these and other perpetual political questions.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Such dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating on exams or plagiarism on essays. Doing so will result in failure of the course and referral to the College for greater academic sanction.

**Participation**

This course will involve close readings of texts and significant amounts of class discussion of those texts. Students are expected to read the assignment for the class in a careful manner before coming to class. This requirement does not mean students cannot come to class with concerns and questions. Those should arise. However, they should come from a serious attempt prior to class to understand the readings. Furthermore, once in class, students are expected to participate in the discussions. I will call upon those not participating. If in doing so I find that students have not read the assignment in a sufficiently careful fashion, I may ask the student to leave the class. Finally, absences should be kept to a minimum.

**Absence and Tardiness**

Frequent Absences and tardiness adversely affects class sessions as well as the absent or tardy student’s success in the class. The instructor reserves the right to lower a student’s participation grade, as far as receiving a zero for that portion, if necessary.

**Learning Needs**

With proper notification from the student and from the College, I am happy to work with any reasonable accommodations concerning special learning needs.

**Assignments**

| Paper 1:  50% | Participation: (10%) |
| Exam:  40% |
Please note that assignments turned in late will be penalized five points for every day late.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-67</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Schedule**

8/30: Introduction/ Coriolanus  
Readings: Act I

9/4: Coriolanus  
Readings: Act II

9/6: Coriolanus  
Readings: Act III-Act IV.3

9/11: Coriolanus  
Readings: Act IV.4-Act V

9/13: Julius Caesar  
Readings: Act I

9/18: Julius Caesar  
Readings: Act II-III.1

9/20: Julius Caesar  
Readings: Act III.2-Act IV.2

9/25: Julius Caesar  
Readings: Act IV.3-Act V

9/27: King Lear
Readings: Act I
10/2: King Lear
   Readings: Act II
10/4: King Lear
   Readings: Act III-Act IV
10/9: King Lear
   Readings: Act V
10/11: Exam I
10/16: Richard II
   Readings: Act I
10/18: Richard II
   Readings: Act II-III.1
10/23: Richard II
   Readings: Act III.2-Act IV
10/25: Richard II
   Readings: Act V
10/30: Henry V
   Readings: Act I-Act II
11/1: Henry V
   Readings: Act III-Act IV.2
11/6: Henry V
   Readings: Act IV.3-Act IV.8
11/8: Henry V/Merchant of Venice
   Readings: Henry V Act V; Merchant of Venice Act I
11/13: The Merchant of Venice
   Readings: Act II-III
11/15: The Merchant of Venice
   Readings: Act IV
11/20: The Merchant of Venice/The Tempest
Readings: Merchant of Venice Act V; the Tempest Act I

11/29: The Tempest
   Readings: Act II

12/4: The Tempest
   Readings: Acts III-IV

12/6: The Tempest
   Readings: Act V