

POL 504: Politics and Literature Fall 2017

Dr. Carrington
Office: Kendall 412
acarrington@hillsdale.edu

Office Hours: M-W: 2:00pm-3:00pm
Th: 10:00-11:00am
By Appointment

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

A	93-100	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	0-59

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