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| Course Code LALI-230 | Course Title Shakespeare I | ECTS Credits 6 |
| Department Languages and Literature | Semester Fall | Prerequisites LALI -130 |
| Type of Course Required | Field English Literature | Language of Instruction English |
| Level of Course 1 st Cycle | Year of Study 2 nd | Lecturer(s) Dr Paul Stewart |
| Mode of Delivery Face-to-face | Work Placement N/A | Co-requisites None |

Objectives of the Course:

The course provides students with the necessary background for an effective understanding of Shakespeare's plays, especially his comedies. It requires the reading of representative texts, placing the plays within their intellectual, historical and theatrical contexts. This course will offer: a) a description of the Elizabethan theatre and its role in society b) an introduction to the historical and literary background of Shakespeare's time, c) an introduction to the traditions and genre expectations of Elizabethan comedy and d) a detailed study of three plays, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merchant of Venice*. The student will also be introduced to the relevant theoretical concepts through which to view the plays.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. analyse Shakespeare's comedies in terms of form and language, character and genre;
2. analyse Shakespeare's use of language and styles;
3. assess and incorporate elements of the historical and social aspects of the period into an interpretation of the plays;
4. examine Shakespeare's dramaturgy;
5. write analytical essays on topics drawn from the plays;
6. analyse, assess and apply secondary critical sources on the subjects and plays studied;
7. evaluate theoretical concerns associated with a contemporary understanding of Shakespeare's plays.

Course Contents:

1. Introduction: Overview of Shakespeare's Oeuvre; The Genre of Comedy.
2. *As You Like It*: (detailed interpretation of scene, language and characterization; issues of gender politics; the pastoral; satire)
3. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (detailed interpretation of scene, language and characterization; issues of gender politics; imagination and Neoplatonism)
4. *Measure for Measure* (concepts of justice; anti-Semitism; power and social change; genre; changing historical perspectives)

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussions with class participation

Assessment Methods:

Homework Assignments; Mid-Term Exam; Final Exam; Class Participation.

Required Textbooks:

| Authors | Title | Publisher | Year | ISBN |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------|---------------|
| Shakespeare, William | <i>As You Like It</i> | Arden | 2006 | 9781904271222 |
| Shakespeare, William | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> | Arden | 2007 | 9781903436608 |
| Shakespeare, William | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> | Arden | 2001 | 9781903436036 |

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

| Authors | Title | Publisher | Year | ISBN |
|-----------------|--|-----------|------|---------------|
| McEvoy, Sean | <i>Shakespeare: The Basics</i> | Routledge | 2006 | 0415362466 |
| Wells, R.H | <i>Shakespeare's Politics: A Contextual Introduction</i> | Continuum | 2009 | 9780826493057 |
| Rackin, Phyllis | <i>Shakespeare and Women</i> | OUP | 2005 | 0198186940 |
| Maguire, Laurie | <i>Studying Shakespeare</i> | Blackwell | 2003 | 063122985X |

