

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: Shakespeare – 2 ½ credits (N)

Level: Honors, Academic Foundations (AF)

Grade (s): 11 & 12

Course Description:

A study of Elizabethan times and selected works of William Shakespeare. This course provides students with close textual readings of the Bard's poetry and dramas. Dramatizations, criticisms, and research projects complement the texts.

Links to Student Expectations:

1. All students will develop skills to utilize technology to gather, to evaluate, to assimilate, and to present information.
2. All students will utilize critical thinking by using skills to identify and to provide resources to solve a problem.
3. All students will learn to communicate critically, persuasively, and personally in both oral and written expression.
4. All students will demonstrate the use of creative and critical thinking skills in an area of Fine Arts.
5. All students will develop skills to promote a sense of confidence in tackling the rigors of standardized tests such as the required MCAS and optional AP, SAT.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ Arts
- ✓ History
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Film
- ✓ Performing Arts

Essential Concepts:

1. Shakespeare was a driving force in the revival of classical literature in Renaissance.
2. Shakespeare was a gifted poet, dramatist, and innovative user of English Language who understood importance of oral tradition.
3. Shakespeare's works address universal themes that teach us what it means to be human.

Student Objectives:

1. Students will memorize and declaim passages of text.
2. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's language.
3. Students will read, perform, and view performances of text to critically assess characterization, setting, plot, theme and staging of the plays.
4. Students will study the life and times of Shakespeare.
5. Students will learn to read and write critically.

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Suggestions for Instruction:

1. Selection of Shakespeare sonnets and plays: comedies, tragedies, and histories.
2. Friendly Shakespeare and Shakespeare Alive.
3. Students will work in cooperative groups.
4. Students will read primary and secondary texts.
5. Students will attend a field trip.
6. Students will use technology in MC.

Suggestions for Assessment:

1. Students will write critical essays.
2. Students will take reading quizzes.
3. Students will give graded performances.
4. Students will paraphrase and analyze short passages of text.

Curriculum:

- ✓ Background on Elizabethan Times
- ✓ Comedy
- ✓ Tragedy
- ✓ History
- ✓ Sonnets
- ✓ Variety of writing assignments: term projects and research papers

Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ Shakespeare H: research paper/project using literary criticism
- ✓ Shakespeare C1: write a critique and other analytical essays