

Department of English & Writing Studies
<http://www.uwo.ca/english>

TEACHING PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER

- 14 *Comedy of Errors*
 16 *Comedy of Errors*
- 21 *Comedy of Errors*
 23 *Comedy of Errors*
- 28 *Taming of the Shrew*
 30 *Taming of the Shrew*

OCTOBER

- 5 *Taming of the Shrew*
 7 *Taming of the Shrew*
- 12 Thanksgiving – no class
 14 *Richard III*
- 19 *Richard III*
 21 *Richard III*
- 26 *Richard III*
 28 Self-directed reading

NOVEMBER

- 2 *Much Ado about Nothing*
 4 *Much Ado about Nothing*
- 9 *Much Ado about Nothing*
 11 *Much Ado about Nothing*
- 16 *Winter's Tale*
 18 *Winter's Tale*
- 23 *Winter's Tale*
 25 *Winter's Tale*

30 *Pericles*

DECEMBER

- 2 *Pericles*
- 7 *Pericles*
 9 *Pericles*

JANUARY

- 4 *Twelfth Night*
 6 *Twelfth Night*
- 11 *Twelfth Night*
 13 *Twelfth Night*
- 18 *Othello*
 20 *Othello*
- 25 *Othello*
 27 *Othello*

FEBRUARY

- 1 *Romeo and Juliet*
 3 *Romeo and Juliet*
- 8 *Romeo and Juliet*
 10 *Romeo and Juliet*

15-19 Reading week

- 22 *Troilus and Cressida*
 24 *Troilus and Cressida*

29 *Troilus and Cressida*

MARCH

- 1 *Troilus and Cressida*
- 7 *Henry V*
 9 *Henry V*
- 14 *Henry V*
 16 *Henry V*
- 21 *Titus Andronicus*
 23 *Titus Andronicus*
- 28 *Titus Andronicus*
 30 *Titus Andronicus*

APRIL

- 4 Review of First Term
- 6 Review of Second Term

ASSIGNMENTS

Performance Analysis	(10%)	Due 7 October
First Essay, 2000 words	(15%)	Due 9 December; research essay, questions to follow
Director's Notebook	(15%)	Due 1 March
Commonplace Book	(10%)	Due 6 April (it will be returned to you at the final exam, and you may consult it during the exam).

P

DIRECTOR

COMMONPLACE BOOK

[T]here scarcely can be a thing more useful, even to ancient, and popular sciences, than a solid and good aid to memory; that is a substantial and learned digest of common places...because it is a counterfeit thing in knowledge, to be forward and pregnant, unless you be withal deep and full; I hold that the diligence and pains in collecting common-places, is of great use and certainty in studying; as that which subministers copy to invention; and contracts the sight of judgement to a strength.

— Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*

The Commonplace book was a central Renaissance method of gathering and organizing material from reading for use in composition at a later date. While there were many variations in methods of commonplacing, they all involved the consistent practice of collecting excerpts while reading—either by marking the margins of text for later copying or by copying as one read. These quotations were then transferred to a commonplace book in which they were organized by topic. Indeed, the English word “topic” derives from the Greek term for place, *topos*.

The use of commonplaces, or in Latin, *loci communes*, is derived from the rhetorical practice of invention: the process of finding arguments to support your case in a formal speech. This method became generalized to include the collection of quotations, or *sententiae*, drawn from important authors which might be used for illustration or ornament. There are two important metaphors used to describe the process: bees gathering nectar from flowers and transforming it into honey; and the process of consuming and digesting books (thus *Reader's Digest*). As this tradition evolved during the Renaissance, the aim was to produce a style of writing marked by *copia*—a varied style, with frequent and subtle allusion to classical and scriptural authority, displaying the writer's familiarity with and command of learned and literary culture.

THE COMMONPLACE BOOK ASSIGNMENT

Use of the commonplace book is intended to be a central part of the course, and of each student's reading. During the course you should compile a collection of quotations from the

plays read which you find interesting or pleasing. You should aim to gather ten quotations from each play, for a total of 120 for the whole year. Each quotation should be assigned to an appropriate topical heading.

The practice of assigning quotations to different headings is an important part of the exercise, because it accustoms you to think in terms of the categories which organized knowledge in the Early Modern period, and, in doing so, guides your reading in the future. You should make your collection either in an exercise book, with separate pages assigned to each topic, or electronically, with a printout handed in on the due dates. In either case, you should cite for each commonplace the play from which it comes with relevant act, scene, line numbers. No individual commonplace should be longer than four lines.

COMMONPLACE TOPICS

Here are a series of basic topics for your commonplace book. Feel free to add to or change the list that you use in order to reflect your own interests.

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These may be handed in at class, given to me in person, sent to me (at the Department) by post or courier, or may be submitted to the essay box outside the Department of English office, where they will be date/time-stamped.

Do *not* put assignments under my office door

Essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. in the essay box are stamped with the previous day's date, and I accept those datings. (This means you can get a Friday date, up to 8:30 a.m. Monday.)

Assignments posted to me will be counted as submitted on the postmark date; so, obtain and carefully keep proof of posting (ie., priority post receipt, recorded delivery receipt, etc).

The Department will not accept assignments by fax or e-mail.

Because of the prevalence of viruses, etc., on the internet, I will not open attachments to e-mails whose authenticity has not been independently verified.

" Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking."

Please also consult the statement on plagiarism on the sheet located on the English Department home page.

You are each given six " grace days" in a full-year course which you can use all at once, or allocate them between your various term assignments (first essay, second essay, or whatever).

These " grace days" are intended to accommodate the accidents that commonly happen (got writer's block, had computer problems [especially viruses!], printer or typewriter ribbon/cartridge wore out, couldn't get books, ran out of toner, dog ate notes, kid sister drew all over essay, cat threw up on notes, overslept, etc. etc.).

Grace days are not transferable, nor do they have any value if unused.

Grace days include only " academic days" – that means that Saturdays and Sundays are free. A wise course is to save your grace days until you really need them, particularly in second term when you will probably be under a lot more pressure than in first term.

When your Grace Days are gone, they're gone, and you're faced with a late assignment (see next section).

Students requiring further extensions based on medical or compassionate grounds must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty. Please see page 5 for academic accommodation details.

If you submit a paper after the due date (plus whatever grace days you have remaining) but within two weeks of it, the paper will be counted as late and the following procedures will apply:

The paper will not be read until all the assignments handed in on time have been read and returned (all papers are read in order of receipt).

The paper will be read and a grade given, but NO COMMENTS OR CORRECTIONS will be made on it.

The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day that it is late. Note that when a paper is late, every day counts (including weekends); however the arrangements for date-stamping essays in the Department of English essay box are accepted for late essays.

PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SUBMITTED MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

I do not permit the use of laptops in the classrooms (lecture and tutorial). Students may tape-record lectures if they have difficulty taking notes by hand. (Phone use in class is also prohibited. Please turn off your phones before class begins.)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.