



Trumbull High School

72 STROBEL ROAD
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT 06611
(203) 816-5151

Honors Shakespeare

Welcome to our English class. This is a one-semester class, which will focus on reading and responding to literature, creative and critical thinking, writing, vocabulary. I look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding class with you!

This course is an intensive study of the life and writings of William Shakespeare within the parameters of the Elizabethan cultural, social and historical picture. It is intended for motivated students of academic ability or promise. Close readings, films and occasional oral recitations will be used to establish an appreciation of the Bard's words, and to aid the student in understanding the reading material. The journey from the page to the stage will be considered, and students will become acquainted with quartos, folios and a variety of literary terms and approaches. They will examine Shakespeare's works on three levels: literary, scholarly and dramatic. Approximately six plays, including comedy, tragedy and history, will be read and analyzed. A number of Shakespeare's sonnets and selections from the narrative poems will be included, as time permits.

Texts:

- The Sonnets
- Plays usually considered are

Hamlet
Othello
The Merchant of Venice
Henry V
The Tempest
Richard III
As You Like It (Possibly)

These are the steps you need to take to guarantee success in this class:

Come prepared to class everyday. This means complete all homework and reading assignments, bring your textbook and a notebook to class every day, bring pens & pencils for writing, and do not be late to class. Hard work will increase your learning and the learning of everyone in the classroom. During class time, I expect you to contribute to class discussions, complete all assignments, and work cooperatively with your classmates. Treat everyone (this includes the teacher!) with fairness and respect, and you will receive the same in return. If you are absent from class, check with a classmate or me as soon as you return for your assignments. Depending on the length of your absence, you will have up to three days to make up homework assignments, one week to make up tests and quizzes. I will try to help you keep up with missed assignments, but the responsibility to complete all assignments lies with you.

Your marking period grade will be determined by the following criteria:

Attendance

If you have skipped a class, you cannot make up any work due on that day—homework, tests, or quizzes.

Portfolio

Portfolios will be examined throughout the semester. Keep all corrected papers in your portfolio. Keeping your portfolio is your responsibility. I will provide space in the classroom for you to store your portfolio. If you wish, you may bring it to class each day with your notebook. If you are absent, ask a classmate to let you copy the notes and classwork you missed. I will assign points according to the completeness and neatness of the portfolio and notebook.

Quiz Average

If you miss a quiz, I expect you to make it up within a week.

Writing and other Major Assignments

Because there is so much emphasis in this class on critical thinking and clear expression, writing assignments are weighed more heavily than normal. Writing assignments, test grades, performance pieces, and other major assignments will be averaged. If you miss a test, you must make it up within a week.

Classwork, Homework, and Class Participation

Points will be assigned for all homework assignments, class assignments, and class participation. Negative class behavior (causing frequent distractions, disruptions, and disorder) will affect your grade in this category.

I expect all assignments to be handed in on the day they are due. Make up assignments will not be accepted except in the case of an absence.

If you are absent when an assignment is due, that assignment is due the day your return to school. *Exception:* If you are absent for more than one day, see me immediately to discuss make up assignments.

You can always reach me to find out missed assignments or to turn in assignments by email at bracksim@trumbullps.org

I have read and understand the above _____
Student Date

Parent Date

****Subject to minor change if necessary****

Trumbull High School educates students in a safe, inviting, student-centered community. We encourage academic achievement, extra-curricular participation, enthusiasm and self-confidence to foster independence and personal growth. We teach skills necessary for life-long learning. We hold our school community to the ethical conduct and social awareness necessary to live and participate in a democratic, diverse and global society.