

**AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF LETTERS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SYLLABUS**

Course : **IDE 454 Shakespeare: Plays and Staging**  
Instructor : **Assoc. Prof. Dr Mustafa Sahiner**  
Year and Term : **2023-2024, Spring**

**1. Aim and Contents:** The purpose of this Course is essentially to enable students to acquire a relatively high and sufficiently wide view of Shakespeare's dramatic art and literary significance through a close study of some of his plays. In this respect, the plays chosen for study are exemplary of his use of different dramatic forms, techniques and concepts. In the context of this basic strategy, the contents of the Course will be as follows; at the outset, there will be a general introduction to the social, cultural and literary background of Shakespeare's time, with emphasis on the development and practice of drama in Renaissance and/or Elizabethan England. In this context, the theory of dramatic forms, especially of comedy, tragedy in the Renaissance, and Shakespeare's use of these forms, will be explained in a concise way with adequate illustration from his plays.

**2. Course Outline:**

**Weeks I:** Introduction: a general review of some of the important contextual material. A brief introduction of the contents, types, and canonical importance of the plays to be studied.

**Week II:** Shakespeare's idea of comedy. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Weeks III:** Tragedy and Shakespeare's idea of tragedy. *Hamlet*

**Week IV:** Roman Tragedy/History: *Julius Caesar*

**Week V:** History Plays: *Henry V*

**Week VI:** Problem Plays: *The Merchant of Venice*

**Week VII:** Problem Plays: *The Tempest*

**Week VIII:** No Class (Ramadan Feast Holiday)

**Week IX:** Midterm Examination (Tentative)

**Week X:** No Class (National Sovereignty Day)

**Week XI:** Student performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**Week XII:** Student performance of *Hamlet*

**Week XIII:** Student performance of *Julius Caesar*

**Week XIV:** Student performance of *Henry V* and *The Merchant of Venice*

**Week XV:** Student performance of *The Tempest*

**3. Textbook:** Various editions of Shakespeare's plays are available for students to choose from. However, among these editions are to be recommended the Arden, Penguin, Cambridge and Oxford editions. Since all the Shakespearean texts have been standardized and textually well established, the students can use any of the modern editions available to them.

**3. Method of Instruction:** The course will mainly be conducted through lectures, especially as regards the study of the contextual and theoretical material. However, in textual studies and discussions, student participation will be required. **Additionally, each student is expected to participate in the performance of one of the plays covered in this course.**

**4. Assessment:**

Participation in performances 25 %      Midterm 25 %      Final 50 %