Shakespeare’s Sonnets: A Guide to Life

Autumn Semester 2017

ARTSCI 1138

1 Credit

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| ROOM /TIME | TBA |
| INSTRUCTOR | Dr Mira Assaf Kafantaris, Senior Lecturer  PhD, English, The Ohio State University, 2014  MA, English, American University of Beirut, 2007 |
| OFFICE HRS | MWF 11:30 am-12:30 pm & by appointment  Location: 503 Denney Hall |
| CONTACT | [Kafantaris.6@osu.edu](mailto:Kafantaris.6@osu.edu)  *Note:* Before you email me, please review my *email policy* below |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES | This Freshman Seminar will serve as an introduction to Shakespeare, particularly how his poetry sheds light on the issues and dilemmas that face us all. Over the course of the semester, we will read all 154 sonnets and develop critical strategies to examine how Shakespeare’s sonnets reflect the best and the worst of humanity. Each week we will focus on a main topic, ranging from friendship, to rivalry, to loss, as it is portrayed in Shakespeare’s poetry. No previous knowledge of Shakespeare is expected.  **Goals:** 1. Through critical analysis, discussion, and writing, students demonstrate the ability to read carefully and express ideas effectively.  2. Students recognize the importance of Shakespeare as a cultural icon and his deep understanding of life’s predicaments. |
| REQUIRED MATERIALS | * Shakespeare, William. *Shakespeare’s Sonnets.* Ed. Stephen Booth. New Haven: Yale Nota Bene, 2000. * A composition notebook |
| COURSE REQUIREMENTS  This course is evaluated as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Your performance in the following will determine your final grade. | |
| **Journal 50 %** | In your composition notebook, you will respond critically each week to a prompt that I provide based on the readings and the topic under discussion. Each journal entry should range between 300-500 words. At the end of the semester, you will submit these journals for my evaluation. |
| **Discussion Leader** **20 %** | You will lead discussion on class reading once during the semester. You will post to Canvas a short analytical response (approximately two well-developed paragraphs) and two thought-provoking questions about the reading for one class session. |
| **Participation**  **30%** | This is a seminar, not a lecture course. Reading assignments are intended to provoke discussion among seminar participants. I expect you to come to class prepared to talk about the sonnets you have read. If you are not comfortable speaking in large settings, you will have the opportunity to express your thoughts in small groups. |
| **Course Policies** | |
| ATTENDANCE | **Attendance** is important to the success of this class and to your development as a college student.  Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not affect your grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility 1) to contact me as soon as possible 2) to provide written documentation for your absence, 3) to arrange to share notes with a classmate, and 4) to catch up with all the assignments. |
| TARDINESS | **Tardiness** is disruptive to the classroom environment, and prevents you from fully participating and assimilating the information and materials discussed in class. If you are more than ten minutes late for class and you do not have a valid excuse, you will be marked absent for the day. |
| ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT | **Plagiarism** is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and failure for the course. Faculty Rule 3335-5-487 states, “It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term ‘academic misconduct’ includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee.” In addition, it is a violation of the student code of conduct to submit without the permission of the instructors work for one course that has also been submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of another course. For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resources/) (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resources/). |
| INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION & EMAIL ETIQUETTE | If at any time you have questions or concerns about the course or a specific assignment, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can stop by my office during my office hours and I will be readily available. If my office hours are inconvenient and you would like to meet at another time, please contact me so we can set up an alternate appointment.  You can also email me at anytime and I will reply within 24 hours (except weekends). As part of an effort to help you develop your professional communication skills, I request that you follow this formal *email etiquette* policy:   * Use a **properly descriptive subject line** that consists of a brief summary of the subject of your message, such as “Appointment request.” Please *refrain* from using short, nonspecific subject lines that have little to do with the actual message (like “hi,” “class,” “question,” “help,” or just leaving the subject line blank). * Start the body of your email off with a proper **greeting**, such as “Hello Dr. Kafantaris,” or something similar. * Follow your greeting with a blank line. * Compose your email in paragraph form (they don’t have to be indented; instead, use a line of whitespace between paragraphs). Make sure you adhere to proper sentence structure, and do your best to *proofread* for typos and spelling mistakes. * Please capitalize the first letter in each sentence. * Finally, use a proper closing and then finish with your first name. |
| CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE | Everyone in the class is expected to be respectful and civil to other members of the class. Part of this classroom etiquette is remembering to turn off all cell phones, mp3 players, or other electronic equipment before the beginning of the class.  All discussions, regardless of subject matter, will be conducted in a civil, respectful, and adult manner. Harassment will not be tolerated in any form and will result in disciplinary action. |
| CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY | If class is canceled due to emergency, I will contact you via email and request that a note be placed on the door. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancelation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting. |
| BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT | **Mira Assaf Kafantaris** earned her PhD in English from The Ohio State University, wheresheis currently a Senior Lecturer. She is working on a study on the theorization of royal marriage and cultural mixing in early modern drama. Her work has appeared in *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson.* She is recipient of multiple awards and grants, including the competitive Presidential Fellowship from The Ohio State University and two grants-in-aid from the Folger Institute to attend seminars at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.  At OSU, she has taught several writing and literature courses, including Introduction to Shakespeare, Introduction to British Literature: Medieval to Eighteenth Century, and First and Second-Year Writing. In 2010, she received the First-Year Writing Teaching Award from the English department at OSU. |
| RESOURCES | |
| The **OSU Writing Center** is available to provide free, professional writing tutoring and consultation. You may set up an appointment by visiting<http://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center>.  Students with disabilities (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions) that have been certified by the Office of Student Life Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Student Life Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue; telephone [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307" \t "_blank), [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu" \t "_blank); [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu/" \l "_blank" \t "_blank). | |
| DAILY SCHEDULE | |

Week 1

Topic: Welcome and Introduction to Shakespeare’s Sonnets

In-Class Reading: Sonnets 1-3 (I will provide handouts)

Week 2

Topic: Procreation

Reading Due: Sonnets 4-17

Week 3

Topic: Time

Reading Due: Sonnets 18-30

Week 4

Topic: Friendship

Reading Due: Sonnets 31-42

Week 5

Topic: Absence

Reading Due: Sonnets 43-58

Week 6

Topic: Rivalry

Readings Due: Sonnets 59-69

Week 7

Topic: Death

Readings Due: Sonnets 70-81

Week 8

Topic: Unrequited Love

Readings Due: Sonnets 82-90

Week 9

Topic: Jealousy

Readings Due: Sonnets 91-100

Week 10

Topic: Positive Thinking

Readings Due: Sonnets 101-111

Week 11

Topic: End of An Affair

Readings Due: Sonnets 112-126

Week 12

Topic: Womanhood

Readings Due: 127-137

Week 13

Topic: Battle of the Sexes

Readings Due: Sonnets 138-152

Week 14

Topic: Conclusion

Readings Due: Sonnets 153-154

WEEK 15

Submission of Journals

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