English 201
Shakespeare

http://blackboard.williams.edu

http://www.williams.edu/williams-only/English/shakespeare

Text: The Riverside Shakespeare is available at Water Street Books, but you are welcome to use any other editions you like as long as they have line numbers.

Schedule

Feb 6  Th  Introduction
11   T    A Midsummer Night’s Dream  *Exercise 1
13   Th   MSND
18   T    MSND  *Exercise 2
20   Th   Henry IV, Part I
25   T    Henry IV, Part I  Formal paper (4-5 pp)
27   Th   As You Like It

Mar 4  T    AYLI  *Exercise 3
 6   Th   Twelfth Night
11   T    Twelfth Night  *Exercise 4
13   Th   Hamlet
18   T    Hamlet  *Exercise 5
21   Th   Midterm Examination

------------------Spring Recess------------------

Apr 8  T    Hamlet  *Exercise 6
10   Th   Othello
15   T    Othello  *Exercise 7
17   Th   Othello
Course Requirements:

Reading. Above all keep up with the reading and bring the text to class with you. Reading the plays while you listen to one of the recordings in the library is an excellent way to educate your ear to the extraordinary range of Shakespeare's poetry. Videos may help you see more clearly what is going on, but you should not under any circumstances substitute watching a video for reading the plays. You may also want to leave your imagination free to envision your own staging and casting—or look at clips from a number of different performances on the Shakespeare web site at the top of this syllabus. You should probably be prepared to read the plays more than once, and in some cases more than twice. In fact, you should be prepared to read the plays as often as you need to in order to feel confident not just about plot, but about nuances in language, tone, imagery, theme, character, etc. You are expected to have read the play in its entirety on the day we begin discussion of it.

Attendance and Participation. Active participation in class discussion is expected and will count in your final grade. You have a responsibility not just to the instructor but to the other members of the class. More than two absences will lower your grade and more than five absences will result in failure for the course.

Written Work and Examinations. Every week there will be some sort of in-class exercise in which you will be asked to identify and/or analyze important passages. Two formal papers (4-5 pages) are due on the dates indicated. There will also be a midterm and a scheduled final examination.

Honor Code. All work in this course is governed by the Student Honor Code as described in the Student Handbook and Williams College Bulletin. None of the assignments requires or expects library research: the goal is to develop and articulate your own ideas and responses to the plays. You are encouraged to discuss the works we read with other members of the class. Just be sure to acknowledge any ideas or help you receive from someone else, whether you quote something exactly or rephrase something in your own words. A brief footnote is sufficient: "I got this idea in a discussion with X," or "X gave me the starting point for this analysis when s/he noted . . ."