

# **Syllabus**

## Shakespearean Literature and Composition

Berean Christian High School

Instructor: Mr. Runyon

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### **Course Description:**

An in depth study of Shakespearean literature all centralized around key themes within the study of human nature; predominantly, identity, role of man in society, as well as leadership and relationships, will be provided in this course. The works will be mainly plays and poetry, spanning the career of William Shakespeare, as well as film adaptations and live performances. Through an incorporation of grammar and mechanical studies, critical thinking, analytical writing, literary criticism, as well as a variety of both extemporized and structured oral presentations, students will be prepared not only for their collegiate courses following high school, but also a climate which, most often, rewards language skills and oral delivery. While in this class, literature will be studied through a Christian worldview, allowing students to intelligently analyze and compare with worldviews that may compete with his or her own.

### **Mission Statement:**

Berean Christian High School is dedicated to providing a quality, Bible-centered education to develop lifetime followers of Christ.

### **English Department Mission Statement:**

An essential part of "developing the Christian leaders of tomorrow" is modeling and fostering within students the skill of clear and effective communication. Therefore, the English Department strives to develop Christian communicators who have a command of the English language, in which they are able to demonstrate not only through speaking, reading, and writing, but also in comprehension, analysis, and critical thinking. As God is the creator of all language, and as He is the Word made flesh, students will approach their study of literature and language through a biblical lens, recognizing God as the origin. Language skills enable students to not only to be successful in college and in their professional lives, but also in sharing their faith with others. Ultimately, the combination of what students read, write, question, and consider will contribute to the development and articulation of a Christian worldview.

### **Required Materials:**

iPad (charged, and ready to be used)

Both a pen (blue or black ink) and a pencil  
The texts that we are currently using (if not already on iPad)

**Required Events:**

A viewing of a Shakespearean play at the California Shakespeare Theatre

Date: Fall Semester      Length: 1 night      Cost: \$30.00

A trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Date: Spring Semester      Length: 3 nights      Cost: \$300.00

**Texts:**

*Othello*, William Shakespeare

*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare

*Hamlet*, William Shakespeare

*Henry IV, Part I*, William Shakespeare

*The Tempest*, William Shakespeare

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Tom Stoppard

*Shakespearean Sonnets*, William Shakespeare

**Course Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course you should be able to:

1. **Identify and describe** significant existential literary pieces, and be able to articulate the core philosophy found within each; Moreover, how said works are pertinent to the understanding of man and human nature.
2. **Relate** major historical works read in class, to the themes and styles of authors of varying backgrounds and time periods, as well as to ourselves.
3. **Articulate** a Christian approach to these works of literature, particularly those which question or challenge religious worldviews.

**Course Format:**

This class involves both lecture and discussion. Although I will sometimes lecture on the critical or historical context of the assigned material, a significant portion of our time will be spent discussing, analyzing, and comparing the texts themselves. It is essential that one comes to class having read the assigned material and that he or she is ready to assume an active rather than a passive role in his or her own education.

RenWeb weighted percentage system will be used.

**Participation:**

As our class will be heavily focused on classroom discussions in both lecture and Socratic seminar forms, participation within the discussions is expected; thus, simply showing

up does not constitute participating. One is expected to share comments, ask questions, and take notes on a regular basis.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating of any kind—whether it be copying from a friend’s exam or buying a paper on the internet—is an insult to me, to your classmates, and ultimately to God. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic “0” on the assignment, and will be given the appropriate amount of demerits.