

# **Common Course Outline**

**English 250  
Shakespeare  
3 Credit Hours**

## **The Community College of Baltimore County**

### **Description**

#### **Shakespeare**

Examines approximately six representative plays, focusing on Shakespeare's major themes, his career as a dramatist, and the principal critical perspectives from which his work is viewed.

Prerequisite: ENGL 101

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify the principal characteristics of a Shakespearean tragedy, comedy, history, and romance;
2. identify Shakespeare's major themes;
3. explain why Shakespeare is both of his age and our contemporary;
4. demonstrate an awareness of the differences between Shakespeare on page, on stage, and on film and of how those differences affect the reader/viewer's response to the "text";
5. demonstrate knowledge of Shakespeare's life and career;
6. identify the different critical perspectives from which Shakespeare and his dramatic works have been viewed;
7. identify the conventions of Elizabethan-Jacobean drama and the Elizabethan playhouse;
8. demonstrate an awareness of Shakespeare's dramaturgy, methods of characterization, and use of language;

9. identify the principal bibliographies and journals devoted to Shakespeare studies and use them to complete assigned research projects;
10. conduct Internet research needed to complete assigned writing projects.

### **Major Topics**

- Shakespeare on page: reading and explicating the text
- Shakespeare in performance: what to look for
- The Elizabethan (and other) world view(s)
- Race, gender and class: Othello, Kate and Shylock

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- At least one essay test
- One critical analysis paper
- One research paper or project
- Class participation and attendance