This course is designed as an introduction to the range of Shakespeare's achievements in drama. About a dozen plays will be read in all, including examples of comedy, tragedy, history, and romance plays. Although the reading list changes from year to year, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *The First Part of King Henry the Fourth*, and *The Tempest* are always assigned. The interpretive emphasis is primarily literary rather than theatrical. That is, we will examine broad patterns of plot and characterization and specific images and speeches. Only brief attention will be paid to the plays as scripts for performance.

In most weeks, we meet for lectures twice and small group discussions once. The discussions, which are student-centered, are based on questions or brief position papers prepared in advance. Additional small group meetings beyond the three regular class meetings may be expected. Although the course is not writing-intensive, there are weekly short writing assignments, not only discussion questions and position papers, but also informal response papers to some of the discussions. Weekly short quizzes, one or two formal essays, one or two hour exams, and a three-hour final are also required.