

ACH102

*Hamlet* Compleat

Class Meeting: Thursday 2:20 am to 3:15 pm, Staller 3036

Steve Marsh 632-4291, Office Hours: Tuesday 11am – 2pm; or by appointment

Overview:

*Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare is one of the most enduring classics of all time. Certainly in the last 400 years, no other piece of dramatic literature has been read, rehearsed, adapted and performed as much as *Hamlet*. The perfection in *Hamlet* is evidenced by the play's ability to support casts of varying talents, productions with uneven resources or scenic values, and audiences young and old, from royals to the groundlings; and scholars from high schools to the ivory towers of the world's greatest learning institutions have continued to write about their ideas that are inspired by this text.

Mystery, and scholarly debate will always surround the provenance of Shakespeare's Danish play. With antecedents in Danish folklore, and written references

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To gain an intimate familiarity with the text of *Hamlet*
- 2) To gain an appreciation and understanding of the first quarto, second quarto and folio editions of the play
- 3) To study the production history of *Hamlet* focusing on some of the most interesting and innovative productions.
- 4) To gain a life-long appreciation and ability to read the play for pleasure.
- 5) To perform a staged reading of the 1-Q version for an invited audience.

Requirements:

- 1) Weekly attendance in class.
- 2) Active participation in all class discussions.
- 3) Must have a portable version of *Hamlet*.
- 4) Students must research and present at least one production history of *Hamlet*.