I. AIM : The purpose of the course is to enable the students to acquire a relatively high and wide view of Shakespeare’s dramatic art, poetic creativity and literary significance through a detailed analysis of his plays. The plays within the academic programme represent the variety of his dramatic production. The course will comprise a general introduction to the social, cultural and literary background of Shakespeare’s time with special emphasis to the development and staging of Renaissance drama in Elizabethan period. Shakespeare’s use of different dramatic forms such as comedy, tragedy, romance and dark comedy or problem play will be dealt with during the textual study of Shakespeare’s work.

II. COURSE OUTLINE :

Week I  A Brief Outlook to the Elizabethan Theatre
Week II  Introduction to Shakespeare’s Dramatic Art
Week III Shakespearean Comedy
Week IV  A Detailed Analysis of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
Week V  Sources, Themes, Comic Elements, Concept of Love, Characters, Language and Style, Text and Performance, 20th Century Approaches
Week VI  Shakespeare’s Idea of Tragedy
Week VII  I. Mid-Term Examination 5th April 2011 Tuesday
Week VIII A Detailed Analysis of HAMLET
Week IX  Sources, Themes, Characters, Tragic Elements, Use of Soliloquies, Style and Language, Text and Performance, 20th Century Approaches
Week X  Shakespeare’s Problem Plays or Dark Comedies
Week XI  II. Mid-Term Examination 3rd May 2011 Tuesday
Week XII A Detailed Analysis of MEASURE FOR MEASURE
Week XIII Shakespeare and the Idea of Romance
Week XIV A Detailed Analysis of THE WINTER’S TALE

III. TEXTBOOKS: Various editions of Shakespeare’s plays are available for students. But among these editions the students are recommended to choose the ARDEN Edition, OXFORD or CAMBRIDGE Edition and last of all the PENGUIN Edition. The ALEXANDER Text, Collins Edition is most useful.

IV. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: The course will be conducted through lectures. However, in textual studies and discussion, student participation will be required. The students are expected to come to class having read the assigned articles or literary criticism.

V. REQUIREMENTS: Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1. Students are expected to come to class on time, with the relevant text and having read the assigned material. The students are expected to read modern critical approaches concerning the plays under study and be ready for class discussion.

VI. ASSESSMENT: There will be two mid-term examinations, an assignment, class participation and discussions and a final exam. The evaluation of the students’ academic work will be based upon:

- I. Mid-Term Examination 20%
- II. Mid-Term Examination 20%
- Assignment 10%
- Final Examination 50%

The students’ English will definitely be taken into consideration. In the grading of the exam papers, up to 25% of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical mistakes.

VII. VIDEO OR DVD MATERIALS: Scenes from the plays will be viewed from time to time and will be discussed in class.