SHAKESPEARE AND THE ELIZABETHAN STAGE

This course provides an introduction to a variety of plays in the context of contemporary Shakespearean scholarship. Our aim will be to develop skills for enjoying Shakespeare and for reading both texts and performances. The focus will be on how these are represented on stage and on screen, in the past and now. The aim is to move forward from issues of plot and character, to consider genre, structure, and the particular textual, critical, and performance conventions of the plays.

Plays to be studied and performances to be enjoyed this semester include Romeo and Juliet and Much Ado about Nothing at Shakespeare’s Globe, The Tempest at the Barbican (RSC), Hamlet (starring Andrew Scott) at the Harold Pinter Theatre, and Titus Andronicus at Stratford (RSC).

Our course is designed to fit around these theatre visits, and the choice of plays studied depends on what is on offer this summer.

Teaching is by a combination of lectures, discussions, and screenings, complemented by required theatre visits and the trip to Stratford. We might also take a walking tour of Shakespearean sites on Bankside.

Desired Outcomes

- A good knowledge of a selection of Shakespeare’s plays and Early Modern playing conventions
- An appreciation of the range of Shakespearean drama
- An understanding of how these texts worked/work in performance
Assessment Components

Assessment is by course work: including a 1500 word close reading exercise (20%), a longer study (2500 words) of a live performance (50%), and class preparation – including postings on NYUClasses (these are required) – participation, and initiative (30%). Full and detailed instructions for both pieces of assessed work will be found on the course website (NYUClasses). These are more than mere ‘cues’ and must be carefully followed.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Be as specific as possible about your expectations regarding student work

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Informed and coherent lines of reasoning deriving from textual, performance, and/or contextual evidence, or from a sense of form or genre; very good English

Grade B: Close engagement with text and/or performance and context; good insights linked to evidence; generally well-written and good enough for me to wish it were better

Grade C: Adequate knowledge and some degree of argumentation; adequate English

Grade D: Errors of fact; slipshod or disorganised thinking; failure to relate generalisations to evidence; careless writing

Grade F: Unsubstantiated claims or generalisations; gross errors; lack of organisation; culpably bad writing

Required Text(s)


There is a lot of dodgy Shakespearean material on the net – most of which might be avoided by following the external links (including that to *Oxford Bibliographies Online*) on the course website (NYUClasses). The Cambridge Companions listed above are pitched at an appropriate level and, along with *Shakespeare Survey*, may be accessed from 'Cambridge Core', to be found among NYU Library’s databases. Oxford's large collection of Shakespeare materials (including OUP editions) are to be found on Oxford Scholarly Editions Online. There is a large amount of video material on the Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive ([http://globalshakespeares.mit.edu/#](http://globalshakespeares.mit.edu/#)), and you may wish to follow up material from the International Database of Shakespeare on Film, Television, and Radio ([http://bufvc.ac.uk/shakespeare](http://bufvc.ac.uk/shakespeare)), You can explore past Globe productions on [http://www.globeplayer.tv](http://www.globeplayer.tv). All sorts of goodies on Shalt: Shakespearean London Theatres: ([http://shalt.dmu.ac.uk](http://shalt.dmu.ac.uk)). This is definitely worth a visit.

To celebrate 2016, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, the BBC created a stupendous new archive, the BBC Archive Resource, [http://shakespeare.ch.bbc.co.uk](http://shakespeare.ch.bbc.co.uk). It contains thousands of items – film and TV versions of the plays, clips, interviews, documentaries, lots of audio material... It will be available to you only when you are in the UK. You have to log on to access material: Username: nyulondon, Password: ShakESPeareNYU. It is immensely useful.

Additional Required

N/A
Session 1
Tuesday
20 June

Introduction to Playing in the Age of Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet

Performance of Romeo and Juliet at 7-30 pm, Globe Theatre

Session 2
Thursday
22 June

Post-performance Romeo and Juliet; Titus Andronicus

Session 3
Tuesday
27 June

Post-Performance Titus Andronicus; Shakespeare on Film

Session 4
Thursday
29 June

Hamlet

Performance of Hamlet, Harold Pinter Theatre, 7-00 pm

Session 5
Tuesday
4 July

Post-performance Hamlet; Scansion

Session 6
Thursday
6 July

Richard II

Assignment 1 to be submitted

Session 7
Tuesday
11 July

The Tempest

Performance of The Tempest by RSC at the Barbican Theatre at 7-15

Session 8
Thursday
13 July

Post-performance Tempest

Session 9
Tuesday
18 July

Much Ado about Nothing

Performance of Much Ado about Nothing, Globe Theatre, 7-30
Session 10
Thursday
20 July

Post-performance *Much Ado about Nothing; Othello*

Session 11
Tuesday
25 July

TBA

Classroom Etiquette

Toilet breaks should be taken only before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.

Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.

Please dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Daytrip to Stratford to see *Titus Andronicus*, **Friday 23 June**

N/A

As much theatre-going as you can afford!

NYU GLOBAL ACADEMIC POLICIES

Policies and procedures for Global Academic Centres, including policies on academic integrity and the Study Away Standard, can be found here: https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/student-services.html

Absences: Key information on NYU London’s absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html

NYU London work submission policies can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html

Classroom conduct: Academic communities exist to facilitate the process of acquiring and exchanging knowledge and understanding, to enhance the personal and intellectual development of its members, and to advance the interests of society. Essential to this mission is that all members of the University Community are safe and free to engage in a civil process of teaching and learning through their experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, no student should engage in any form of behaviour that interferes with the academic or educational process, compromises the personal safety or well-being of another, or disrupts the administration of University programs or services.

Please refer to the NYU London Disruptive Student Behaviour Policy at https://goo.gl/Nvt5Vu for examples of disruptive behaviour and guidelines for response and enforcement.