

Lennox: Hamlet, Fall 2008

**The Gallatin School of New York University: Fall Semester 2008**

**K10:0047 First Year Seminar: Hamlet in the Afterlife**

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Lennox  
E-mail: [pl35@nyu.edu](mailto:pl35@nyu.edu)

Office: Room 616, 715 Broadway  
Office Hours M/W 1-2 and by appointment

**Required Texts:** *Hamlet*, Folger Library edition  
*Hamlet*, Arden edition, ed. Ann Thompson & Neil Taylor  
*Hamlet*, edited by Susanne L. Wofford  
*Hamlet*, Manga edition, ed. Adam Sexton & Tintin Pantoja  
*Hamlet: A User's Guide*, Michael Pennington  
*What Happens in Hamlet*, John Dover Wilson  
*Granville Barker's Prefaces to Shakespeare: Hamlet* (alternate title,  
*Prefaces to Shakespeare: Hamlet*, Harley Granville Barker)  
*Tragedy: A Very Short Introduction*, Adrian Poole  
*The Spanish Tragedy*, Thomas Kyd (any edition is fine)

**Recommended Purchase:** *Hamlet*, DVD version, dir. By Kenneth Branagh  
Additional recommendations for films, books, and articles will be posted on Blackboard Course Documents throughout the semester.

**Reading Assignments.** Always bring the Folger edition to class, along with any other assigned readings (i.e. Dover Wilson & Pennington). Some classes will also require the Arden edition, which provides additional in-depth notes.

**Viewing Assignments:** Between Sept 10 – Oct. 8 you should watch at least three film versions of *Hamlet*. Other films will be assigned during the semester, but it is expected that by the end of the semester you will have seen all of the major film versions of *Hamlet*.

**Writing Assignments/Blackboard Postings:** See Attachment

**In-Class Discussion Topics:** For each class one student will be responsible for providing a topic for class discussion. Please post your topic on Blackboard Discussion Board the day before class.

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*Please note that a few additional articles may be added as required reading during the semester.  
Please note that the dates for all guest speakers may be subject to change.*

### **Writing Assignments – a Brief Overview**

More detailed guidelines for individual paper assignments will be provided later.

**Director/Actor Paper (Oct. 27):** A research paper that focuses on the work of major actors and/or directors of *Hamlet*. Assignments will be drawn by lot and will include 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century stage and film productions. Extensive research required.

**Production Paper (Dec. 1):** Your specifications for a production of *Hamlet* to be done in a specific style determined by “real life” theatre and/or film production considerations including (but not limited to) budget, type of stage, cast, textual adaptations, audience. Assignments will be drawn by lot. Some research of similar stage productions will be necessary along with careful consideration of the text. This will be a two-part paper. Part 1 will describe the production and Part 2 will discuss your choices.

**Response Essay (Dec. 10):** This is your own response to one of the major issues in *Hamlet* based on the readings, viewings, and discussions during the semester.

**Blackboard Discussion Board:** Questions and Discussion Topics will be posted throughout the semester. You will be asked to post your own response and to respond to the postings of your classmates.

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- Sept. 3 Introduction
- Sept. 8 Staging *Hamlet*, Guest Speaker Dr. Russell Jackson  
Your preparation: watch the 4-hour Branagh DVD *Hamlet* and listen to the commentary.  
This is can be viewed at the NYU Library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Avery Fisher Collection).
- Sept. 10 *Hamlet*, Act 1  
Dover Wilson, Chapter II & Pennington, "Introduction" and "Day One"
- Sept. 15 *Hamlet*, Act 1  
Dover Wilson, Chapter III & Appendix A
- Sept. 17 *Hamlet* Act 2  
Dover Wilson, Chapter IV. Pennington, "Day Two"
- Sept. 22 *Hamlet* Act 2  
Pennington, "The Characters"
- Sept. 24 *Hamlet* Act 3  
Dover Wilson, Chapter V. Pennington, "Day Three"
- Sept. 29 *Hamlet* Act 3  
Red Bull Theatre Play Reading, Theater at St. Clement's 7:00  
*The Silent Woman*, Ben Jonson
- Oct. 1 Class Visit to the NY Library of the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center
- Oct. 6 *Hamlet* Act 4  
Dover Wilson, Chapter VI. Pennington, "Day Four"
- Oct 8 *Hamlet* Act 4  
Dover Wilson, Chapter VII.
- Oct. 13 No Class, Columbus Day
- Oct 15 *Hamlet* Act 5

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- Oct 15        *Hamlet* Act 5  
Pennington, "Day Five" & "Conclusion: State of the Play"
- Oct. 20        *Granville Barker's Prefaces to Shakespeare: Hamlet*
- Oct. 22        An Overview of Stage & Film Hamlets
- Oct. 27        An Overview of Stage & Film Hamlets  
Director/Actor Paper is Due
- Oct. 29        Staging *Hamlet*, guest speaker Mark Lamos, director
- Nov. 3         *Hamlet* editions
- Nov. 5         Editing *Hamlet*, invited guest speaker Susanne Wofford
- Nov. 10        Editing *Hamlet*, guest speaker Adam Sexton, editor of the *Manga Hamlet*
- Nov. 12        *The Spanish Tragedy*, Thomas Kyd
- Nov. 17        Revenge Tragedy, selections from *Tragedy*, Adrian Poole  
Red Bull Theatre Play Reading, Theater at St. Clement's 7:00  
*The Malcontent*, John Marston
- Nov. 19        Adaptation
- Nov. 24        Adaptation
- Nov. 26        No Class, Legislative Day
- Dec. 1         Adaptation  
Production Paper Due
- Dec. 3         Adaptation
- Dec. 8         Adaptation  
Red Bull Theatre Play Reading, Theater at St. Clement's 7:00  
*Doctor Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe
- Dec. 10        One More Overview  
Response Essay is due no later than Dec. 15 (exam week)



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## REVELATION READINGS

SEPTEMBER 15TH 2008 — MARCH 2ND 2009

PAID  
New York, NY  
Postage

**Monday September 15th, 7:30pm**  
**A BENEFIT READING OF**  
**RESTORATION COMEDY\*** by Amy Freed (The Beard of Avon)  
Featuring Michael Urie (*Ugly Betty*, *Revenge's Tragedy*)  
Directed by Jesse Berger

\*New York Premiere  
VIP Reception with the actors and special guests *debonair*, *Cocktail Party* with live music follows the reading.  
A hilarious fusion of Vanbrugh's classic sex-farce *The Relapse* and its wild prequel, *Cibber's Love's Last Shift*, this new comedy is not to be missed.  
**Admission:** \$100 Reading & Party  
\$250 VIP Reception + Reading & Party  
Reserve now at [www.redbulltheater.com](http://www.redbulltheater.com)

**Monday November 17th, 7pm**  
**THE MALCONTENT** by John Marston  
A truculent tragicomedy, this scathing attack on government corruption is timely, terrifying, and disconcertingly amusing.  
Featuring Matthew Rauch (*Revenge's Tragedy*)

**Monday December 8th, 7pm**  
**DOCTOR FAUSTUS** by Christopher Marlowe  
Directed by Mark Lamos (*Gymbeline*)  
Faustus sells his soul to the Devil for knowledge — only Marlowe could have told this tale this way!

**Monday September 29th, 7pm**  
**THE SILENT WOMAN** by Ben Jonson  
This Jacobean gem is satirically savvy with a surprisingly sexy twist.  
Starring F. Murray Abraham (*Amadeus*, *Merchant of Venice*)

**Monday October 6th, 7pm**  
**A HORSE'S ASS** by David Greenspan — (loosely adapted from Pedro Afonso's Renaissance comedy *Il Marescalco*)  
Directed by Leigh Silverman (Me!)

1526. Mantua. A homosexual man will be forced at knifepoint to marry a woman. He's tearing his hair out.  
**Monday October 27th, 7pm**  
**THE CENCI** by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
Directed by Eleanor Holdridge  
Tyranny, incest, and assassination — a 16th century tragedy comes to vivid life in the hands of one of the great Romantic poets.  
Featuring Lisa Harrow (*Me!*) and Roger Rees (*Indiscretions*)

**TICKETS**  
\$25 Adults  
\$10 Students/Industry  
\$100/\$250 Benefit

**INFORMATION**  
visit: [redbulltheater.com](http://redbulltheater.com)  
write: [info@redbulltheater.com](mailto:info@redbulltheater.com)  
call: 212.414.5168

**Purchase at [www.redbulltheater.com](http://www.redbulltheater.com) or call 212.352.3101 or 866.811.4111 (toll-free)**

**LOCATION**  
Theater at St. Clement's  
423 West 46th Street, between 9th & 10th Avenues  
Subway: A/C/E to 42nd Street, Exit on 44th Street  
Parking: 415 West 45th Street, between 9th & 10th Avenues

Sign up on our website to receive updated information via email for the 2009 Readings:  
[www.redbulltheater.com](http://www.redbulltheater.com)

**2009 READINGS**  
Electricidad  
by Luis Alfaro, directed by Lisa Peterson, Monday January 12th, 7pm  
The Royal Hunt of the Sun  
by Peter Shaffer, directed by Joe Hardy, Monday February 23rd, 7pm  
The Siege of Numantia  
by Miguel de Cervantes, Monday March 2nd, 7pm  
... And More, To Be Announced +