

SHAKESPEARE: READING & PERFORMANCE Summer 2012

Course Code SS 1810

Aims

- i. To provide the opportunity for students to study a number of key Shakespearean (and contemporary Jacobean) dramatic texts in detail.
- ii. To allow students to develop an understanding of the relationship between Shakespeare's plays and the cultural and historical contexts in which they were produced and performed.
- iii. To examine several of Shakespeare's plays in performance and to consider the differences between Shakespeare as a reading text and as drama in performance.
- iv. To engage critically with contemporary interpretations of Shakespeare in relation to text and history.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- i. An ability to discuss and critically analyse the texts of plays studied on the course.
- ii. An understanding of the historical and cultural contexts relevant to our interpretation of the plays, including representations of contemporary Elizabethan London and urban living.
- iii. An awareness of the conditions of Elizabethan/Jacobean performance and of Shakespeare's stagecraft in relation to the demands of the various dramatic genres.
- iv. An appreciation of the ways in which meaning has been constructed in relation to play and playwright from the sixteenth century to the present day.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

The course is delivered through a multidisciplinary programme consisting of:

- i. Formal lecture/workshop and seminar/small group sessions
- ii. Field activities, including theatre trips and visits to Shakespearean sites, led by members of the Kingston Faculty
- iii. Independent library sessions

Classes

- i. Classes will start promptly at the times shown in the schedule.
- ii. There will be a preliminary meeting with your course leader, Dr Nicholas Foxton, on **Friday afternoon, 29th June**, to make sure all is in order before our classes start on the Tuesday.
- iii. For all the fieldtrips to London you will travel on public transport using your travel cards. (Meet Nick Foxton outside Platform 4, Waterloo Station.) Tickets for the plays will be given to you on the day of the performance.
- iv. On days where there are lectures, you will have a half-hour break from 11.00-11.30am and, if applicable, between 3-3.30pm.

N.B. The University reserves the right to vary or revise the content at its discretion.

Class Schedule

Shakespeare: Reading and Performance

The choice of plays: three performances at The Globe (Bankside): *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard III* and *Henry V*, and one at the RSC Stratford (*The Tempest*).

Date	Time	Place	Lecture	Lecturer
Friday 29 June	14:00	JG	Introduction to the course	Nicholas Foxton (NF)
Tuesday 3rd July	09:30	JG	Introduction to London in Shakespeare's day	NF
	14:30	Platf ^m 4	Bankside Walk/Visit to Golden Hind (to be confirmed)	NF
Thursday 5th July	09:30	JG	Play for study: Taming of the Shrew	NF NF
	14:00	Globe	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> (performance)	NF
Tues 10th July	09:30		Library Time	NF
	10:30	JG	Discussion of Thursday's performance	
	14:30	JG	Play for Study: <i>Henry V</i>	NF
Thurs 12th July	11:45	W'loo Stn	For Workshop (12:30) + Globe Tour & Exhibition (to be confirmed)	NF
	19:30	Globe	<i>Henry V</i> (performance)	NF
Tues 17th July	09:30	JG	Discussion of Tuesday's performance	NF
	14:30	JG	Play for study: <i>The Tempest</i>	NF
Thurs 19th July	09:00	Mbone St		NF
	13:15	Stratford	The Tempest (performance) Discussion	NF
Tues 24th July	09:30	JG	Library Time	NF
	14:30	JG	Indiv sessions on essays (by appt)	NF
	19:30	Globe	Richard III (performance)	NF
Thurs 26th July	09:30		Library Time	
	10:30	JG	Course Review	NF

Lecture/Workshop Topics

Introduction: London in Shakespeare's Day, followed by a Bankside Walk. (This was theatre-land in Shakespeare's time.)

No set reading.

Lectures & Workshops on the four plays we will be studying will take the form of some brief lectures on informational topics (background, social & historical; the genre of comedy) and, mostly free-form discussion. In workshop format, we can study the performance of selected scenes in clips from filmed versions of the plays.

Please ensure that **you have re-read the play before each class** and are prepared to discuss it in detail.

Individual Sessions & Library Time

The afternoon session of the Tuesday in the final week (24th July) will be reserved for meetings between myself (GE) and each of you, as part of your preparation before submitting your 2nd and final paper on the Thursday. **Please make sure you are ready with a draft.**

Library time—one hour before class on each of the Thursdays on which the papers are due, to enable you to organise the finishing & printing of your work.

Fieldtrips

The Inns of Court: Miraculously saved from the Great Fire of 1666 by a change of wind, the Inns were the closest equivalent to a university of London in Shakespeare's day. Then, as now, the centre of legal education in the country, certain of these colleges (Inns) staged private performances of many of the plays of Elizabethan/Jacobean era. <http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/exhibition>

Globe Theatre Exhibition: The world's largest exhibition devoted to Shakespeare and the London in which he lived and worked, Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition will bring to life Shakespeare's world for students

(<http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/on-stage>).

It may be possible to schedule a workshop and theatre tour on one of this summer's plays, depending on timetabling (theirs and ours)

(<http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/exhibition>)

Assessment Strategy

Students will be required to write two papers.

Paper I (30% of total mark)

will be a close reading of one of two passages (provided) of the first of the Shakespeare play we shall study. It will be **1000 words** in length and will be **due on the morning of Thursday 14th July** (end of week two of the course).

Paper 2 (70% of total mark)

will *either* discuss the staging and performance of **one** of the plays studied in the light of possible readings of the text; *or* it will compare aspects of **two** of the performances witnessed. This essay will be **1500-2000 words** in length and will be **due on the morning of the final Thursday (July 26th)** of the course.

Attendance is required at all course classes and activities. Absences will be penalised in the usual way (3% will deducted for every session missed—unless your tutor is informed before or during that session).

Indicative Bibliography

Primary Texts: *Annotated editions of the three plays* (to be purchased in advance)—recommended, the *Arden* or *Cambridge Shakespeare editions*.

Please note that students are expected to have read closely the first of the plays to be studied to prepare for discussion on Thursday 8th July, our second meeting.

Advice on Reading: *You are advised to have read all three plays before arriving, as students find reading time very limited by other activities during the four weeks of the course. A suggestion for those less familiar with reading Shakespeare: it may be worth reading the texts for the first time while watching DVDs of performances of the plays (or alternating between the two).*

Some suggested further reading:

Bate, Jonathan and Russell Jackson, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Shakespeare on Stage* (Oxford, 2001)

Bloom, Harold, *Shakespeare: the Invention of the Human* (Penguin, 1998)

Braunmuller, A.R. and Michael Hattaway, *The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama* (Cambridge, 1990)

Belsey, Catherine, *The Subject of Tragedy: Identity and Difference in Renaissance Drama* (Methuen, 1985)

Dollimore, Jonathan, *Radical Tragedy* (Harvester 1991)

Drakakis, John, *Alternative Shakespeare* (Methuen, 1985).

Greenblatt, Stephen, *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* (Norton, 2004)

Gurr, Andrew, *Playgoing in Shakespeare's London* (Cambridge, 1987)

Hawkes, Terence, *Shakespeare in the Present* (Routledge, 2004)

Kastan, David Scott and Peter Stallybrass, *Staging the Renaissance* (Routledge, 1991)

Kermode, Frank, *The Age of Shakespeare* (Modern Library, 2004)

Shapiro, James, *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599* (Harper Collins, 2005)

Tillyard, E.M.W., *Shakespeare's History Plays*

Vickers, Brian, *Appropriating Shakespeare* (Yale, 1994)

The *Arden* editions of Shakespeare plays have particularly detailed notes & commentaries (more or less line by line).