
SHAKESPEARE IN CONTEXT in Spring 2019 (CL3038)

Course Code	CL3038	Professor(s)	Brenton Hobart
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	MR: 13:45-15:05 in G-002	Office Hours	by appointment
Credits	4	Email	bhobart@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Shakespeare in Context: over the course of this semester, we shall study in detail eight Renaissance plays (seven by William Shakespeare, one by his contemporary Christopher Marlowe), while discussing them within the context of the times. The course serves as an introduction to Shakespeare's works (and world) for those who know nothing or only a little of them, while also serving as a chance to develop a deeper understanding of them for those who have already undertaken more in-depth readings of the works of the period. The plays we study tie in with productions we shall see during the semester, as the broad theme of this course is the way in which Shakespeare makes his own theater, or theatricality, the centerpiece of his dramas – *Shakespeare's world as a stage*.

A study trip is a key element of this course, and on it we shall visit London and Stratford – Shakespeare's birthplace and home of the Royal Shakespeare Company. In Stratford we shall see the RSC performing plays already studied. We also shall use video and film versions of the plays and attempt to relate what we are reading and seeing to contemporary questions and writers.

This course satisfies the 'Renaissance' requirement in the Comparative Literature major and is a literature elective for the Creative Writing major. It is a good choice for anyone minoring in Literature or in Theatre and Performance. A study trip to see performances of several plays in Stratford and London is an integral, highly recommended (but optional) element of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

A global comprehension of Shakespeare's works and world.

Reading mythology to understand art (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Renaissance art, and Shakespeare).

A global comprehension of European Renaissance history (and literature) from the autumn of

the Middle Ages (1348) to the advent of the Baroque period (Shakespeare's own day), including the Great Discoveries, the printing press, the crisis of faith, heretics and martyrs, witchcraft, monsters, prophecies, magic, Early Modern philosophy and the Protestant Reformation.

An understanding of how to view a text: the study of ekphrasis or descriptive sketches, as a counterpart to the Renaissance graphic world, from De Vinci to Bosch, from Brueghel to Michelangelo.

Elements of the language of late 16th- and early 17th-century England such as linguistic shifts, contractions and grammar; as well as the language of thought, including received ideas or popular errors.

The ability to read Shakespeare's plays.

General Education

Course Outline

January

21 (M) Introduction

24 (R) *Richard II*, I

28 (M) *Richard II*, II-III

31 (R) *Richard II*, IV-V

February

4 (M) *As You Like It*, I

6 (W) *As You Like It*, II-III*

* Make-up session: Time to be decided

7 (R) *As You Like It*, IV-V

11 (M) *Edward II*, I-II

14 (R) *Edward II*, III-V

18 (M) *Pericles*, I

21 (R) *Pericles*, II-III

25 (M) *Pericles*, IV-V (and midterm review)

28 (R) Midterm

March

18 (M) *Othello*, I*

21 (R) *Othello*, II-III*

25 (M) *Othello*, III-IV*

28 (R) *Othello*, IV-V*

April

1 (M) *Henry IV, Part I*, I

4 (R) *Henry IV, Part I*, II-III

8 (M) *Henry IV, Part I*, IV-V

11 (R) *The Taming of the Shrew*, I-II

15 (M) *The Taming of the Shrew*, III-V

18 (R) No Class: Study-trip

22 (M) Easter Monday: No Class

25 (R) *Coriolanus*, I / **Research project proposals due**

29 (M) *Coriolanus*, II-III

May

2 (R) *Coriolanus*, III-IV

6 (M) *Coriolanus*, V / **Final project due (No late papers)**

13 (M) Final exam: 12:00 pm

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Edward II	Christopher Marlowe	Methuen Drama - New Mermaids	9781472520524	Yes
Othello	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781472571762	Yes
King Richard II	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781903436332	Yes
Pericles	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781903436851	Yes
The Taming of the Shrew	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781903436936	Yes
As You Like It	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781904271222	Yes

Coriolanus	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781904271284	Yes
Henry IV, Part I	Shakespeare	The Arden Shakespeare	9781904271352	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is crucial for a student's success in this course. Coming to class late, repeatedly leaving the room during class discussion or talking amongst yourselves during class discussion will affect your final grade for the course. Students who attend class every day, without fail, gets "A's" more often than not.

GRADING:

Midterm.....	25%
Final Exam.....	25%
Final Project.....	25%
In-class participation, attendance, reading exams, presentations.....	25%

Other

Study trip London and Stratford

Thursday 21 April (Paris to Stratford)

1:15pm

As You Like It

Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Stratford-upon-Avon

Running Time: To be confirmed

7:15pm

The Taming Of The Shrew

Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Stratford-upon-Avon

Running Time: To be confirmed

Friday 19 April (Stratford to London)

2:00-4:00pm: visit to the Globe

7:30pm

Edward II

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (Globe)

London

Saturday 20 April (London)

???

Afternoon: Visit to Globe

Evening: Group Dinner

Sunday 21 April (London to Paris)

1:00pm

Richard II

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (Globe)

London

Departure: 17:00

