

## Shakespeare: Text, Performance, and Adaptation

English 3310.01

Fall 2017 | Classroom: Stokes North 115 | Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-11:45am  
Instructor: Kelsey Norwood | [kelsey.norwood@bc.edu](mailto:kelsey.norwood@bc.edu)  
Office: Stokes South 490B | Office Hours: Thursday 8:00-10:00am, and by appointment

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### Course Description

In this course, we will read and discuss Shakespeare's plays with an emphasis on their status as unstable and performable texts with a variety of potential interpretations. We will consider the following questions (among others):

- How were these plays performed in Elizabethan/Jacobean England, and what shapes do they take today?
- In what ways do they speak to issues of gender, sexuality, and race, and how do certain performances and adaptations present those issues in a new light?
- How might certain performance choices shift audience members' perspectives on the genre, mood, or tone of a scene or an entire play?
- How might conventions of contemporary film and television empower us to reinterpret Shakespeare's plays as adaptations?

In addition to traditional readings and assignments, the course will involve in-class performance experiments and a group filmmaking project at the end of the semester.

We will read six plays in this class: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Othello*, *Measure for Measure*, *Hamlet*, *Cymbeline*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

### Course Goals

As an upper-level elective in the English department, this course will help us to do the following:

- Develop skills in advanced close reading with an emphasis on Shakespearean diction, syntax, and meter.
- Understand and explore the malleability of Shakespeare's texts through critical analysis of contrasting editions, performances, and adaptations.
- Build models for understanding and assessing the process of adapting and translating Shakespeare's plays into different genres, mediums, and social contexts.

### Required Texts

*The Bedford Shakespeare* | ISBN: 978-0312439637  
*Cymbeline* | any edition with line numbers and footnotes/endnotes

All books should be purchased as hard copies.

### Video Clips and Additional Readings

Be sure to check your BC email on a regular basis, as I will often email short video clips or supplementary readings to watch/read before class in addition to the assigned reading. These will be emailed at least 24 hours before class.

## **Grading**

I don't discuss individual grades over email or in class, but I'm happy to talk with you about your grade during my office hours. Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

Close Readings 20% (5% each)

Midterm 10%

Longer Paper 15%

Group Film Project 15%

Final Exam 15%

Reading Quizzes 10%

Participation 15%

Your final participation grade will be determined based on several factors: attendance, productive and consistent engagement in class discussion, ungraded assignments, and adherence to course policies.

## **Course Policies**

### Attendance:

You are allowed one unexcused absence; any additional absences (or repeated late arrivals/leaving early) will cause points to be taken off your grade. More than six absences will automatically result in a failing grade for the course. In case of family emergency or prolonged illness, please contact your dean.

### Conferences:

Once during the semester, I will meet with all students individually for required midterm conferences. A missed conference counts as a class absence.

### Late Work:

Each day a writing assignment is late, you will lose a third of a letter grade (i.e. A to A-).

### Formatting:

All written work should be double-spaced with 12 pt. font size, and in MLA or Chicago format. For help with citations, see the following website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>

### Electronics:

Please turn off and put away all electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops) during class meetings.

### Academic Integrity:

Boston College values the academic integrity of its students and faculty. Please familiarize yourself with the university's policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy/#integrity>

If you have any questions, please ask me before turning in an assignment. If a student is found responsible for violating the policy, penalties may include a failing grade as well as possible probation, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

### Disability Statement:

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with Kathy Duggan ([kathleen.duggan@bc.edu](mailto:kathleen.duggan@bc.edu)), Associate Director, Academic Support Services, The Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or ADHD) or Suzy Conway ([suzy.conway.1@bc.edu](mailto:suzy.conway.1@bc.edu)), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities).

Advanced notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

### **Campus Resources:**

#### Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC):

The CFLC, located in O'Neill Library, offers one-on-one writing tutoring. This is a great resource if you're struggling with an assignment or any aspect of the writing process. Tutoring is free for all BC students. To schedule an appointment call 617-552-0611.

#### Counseling Services:

If you're having a difficult time or need someone to talk to, there are people available at University Counseling Services. This service is free for BC students. To set up an appointment, call (617) 552-3310 or stop by Gasson 001.

#### Sexual Assault and Misconduct

From the Boston College policy on sexual misconduct:

“Boston College seeks to foster a campus environment that supports its educational mission and is free from exploitation and intimidation, as well as discrimination based upon gender. Sexual misconduct of any kind, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, domestic and dating violence, and stalking, is antithetical to the mission of Boston College and the values it espouses and will be responded to accordingly.”

To report sexual assault or misconduct, call the Sexual Assault Network (SANet), an anonymous hotline available 24/7: (617) 552-2211. <http://www.bc.edu/offices/dos/sexual-violence-policy-website>

## Course Schedule

This schedule is preliminary and I will announce any changes in class. If you are absent, please reach out to a classmate to learn what you have missed, and feel free to follow up with me if you have any further questions.

Tuesday 8/29	Syllabus
Thursday 8/31	<i>Much Ado</i> act 1   “Staging Shakespeare”   “Texts”
Tuesday 9/5	<i>Much Ado</i> act 2   “Players”
Thursday 9/7	<i>Much Ado</i> act 3   <b>Due: Close Reading #1</b>
Tuesday 9/12	<i>Much Ado</i> acts 4-5
Thursday 9/14	<i>Othello</i> act 1
Tuesday 9/19	<i>Othello</i> act 2   <b>Due: Close Reading #2</b>
Thursday 9/21	<i>Othello</i> act 3
Tuesday 9/26	<i>Othello</i> act 4
Thursday 9/28	<i>Othello</i> act 5   <b>Due: Close Reading #3</b>
Tuesday 10/3	<i>Measure</i> acts 1-2
Thursday 10/5	<i>Measure</i> act 3
Tuesday 10/10	<i>Measure</i> act 4   <b>Due: Close Reading #4</b>
Thursday 10/12	<i>Measure</i> act 5
Tuesday 10/17	<i>Hamlet</i> act 1   <b>Due (10pm): Take-Home Midterm</b>
Thursday 10/19	<i>Hamlet</i> act 2
Tuesday 10/24	<i>Hamlet</i> act 3
Thursday 10/26	<i>Hamlet</i> act 4
Tuesday 10/31	<i>Hamlet</i> act 5
Thursday 11/2	<i>Cymbeline</i> act 1
Tuesday 11/7	<i>Cymbeline</i> act 2   <b>Due: Longer Paper</b>
Thursday 11/9	<i>Cymbeline</i> act 3
Tuesday 11/14	<i>Cymbeline</i> act 4
Thursday 11/16	<i>Cymbeline</i> act 5   <b>Due: Group Film Project Proposal</b>
Tuesday 11/ 21	<i>Shrew</i> acts i-1
Tuesday 11/28	<i>Shrew</i> acts 2-3
Thursday 11/30	<i>Shrew</i> act 4
Tuesday 12/5	<i>Shrew</i> act 5
Thursday 12/7	Film Project Presentations   <b>Due: Group Film Project</b>
Monday 12/18, 9am	<b>Final Exam</b>