

THE 421
SHAKESPEARE: STAGE AND FILM (ONLINE)

Fall 2017

01/08/18 - 02/23/18

Instructor: Marvin González
mgonza72@asu.edu

Office hours: by appointment scheduled via email

All appointments will be conducted via Skype (marving2001@hotmail.com)

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Shakespeare: Stage and Film is a seven and a half-week course devoted to exploring how Shakespeare's plays, which we usually first encounter as printed texts, are transformed into stage productions, television videos, and films. While we will be exploring some of the plays through their published texts, our main focus will be on how theatre, television, and film artists make highly visual performance events out of dramatic literature. We will be looking at some films in their entirety and at others in brief clips. The films will also be supplemented by other visual materials. The course will be divided into five sections or "Acts" that contain readings, viewings, and assignments.

Act I (1/10/18-1/19/18):	Introduction: Shakespeare, Shakespeare's theatre, Shakespeare's texts; reading a play in print
Act II (1/17/18-1/26/18):	"Reading" a stage production; "reading" a film
Act III (1/24/18-2/2/18):	Shakespeare's characters
Act IV (1/31/18-2/9/18):	Adaptations and offshoots
Act V (2/7/18-2/16/18):	Putting it all together

Required plays

Titus Andronicus
Much Ado About Nothing
Twelfth Night
Macbeth
Taming of the Shrew

Required films (year released, director)

Titus (1999, Taymor)
Much Ado About Nothing (1993, Branagh)
Twelfth Night (1996, Nunn)
Throne of Blood (1957, Kurosawa)
The Taming of the Shrew (1967, Zeffirelli)

The plays are available online at: <http://Shakespeare.mit.edu/> or www.gutenberg.org

Some of the required films will be available to you online through the course website. However, many are unavailable for streaming, so you will need to rent/buy videos or DVDs of them.

There will also be opportunities for you to supplement your analysis with additional films and texts, which will be discussed as the assignments are released.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEATRE AND FILM THROUGH THE LENS OF THEATRE 421

In this course we will be looking at the differences between stage productions and films of Shakespeare's plays. The materials that we will be viewing (either completely or in part) have been made for different purposes and it's important to notice the differences in style and intention:

- In some cases we will be looking at videotapes of actual stage productions. In these instances, one or more video cameras have been used to record a stage production as it is performed in front of a live audience. It's important to notice that *this is not the same thing as seeing the stage production in person*. The director of the videotape makes numerous decisions about where to focus the camera, whether to use close-ups, how to capture audience responses, etc. So some of the experience of sitting in the audience at the performance is lost, especially the spectator's freedom to choose what to look at onstage at any given moment in the play.
- Sometimes we will be looking at videotapes or stage productions that have been restaged for a television audience. In these instances, sets have been built in a television studio and the cameras have much more freedom to film close-ups, to include reaction shots while characters are speaking, and even to use special effects that the camera makes possible, such as speeding up the action or presenting it in slow motion.
- We will also be looking at films that do not rely on a stage production but have been conceived directly for film. In these instances, the directors and film editors have used all of the tools of filmmaking to create a cinematic version of Shakespeare's play. These films tend to make great use of visual equivalents for Shakespeare's dialogue, and their strong point is often their success at bringing the plays' physical worlds to vivid life.

In general, stage productions use the highest percentage of Shakespeare's text, while television versions use less, and films use even less, the latter sometimes using only about 30% of Shakespeare's dialogue, substituting visual elements for language wherever possible. It is therefore important to consider the *kind* of video/film you are watching: stage, television, or film, and to understand the tools and conventions of each kind. We will be exploring those differences as we go along.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COURSE AND SCHEDULE

Every educator has a personal philosophy that they live by; my students' success is very important to me. I view my role as that of a facilitator or guide, and as such, my goal is to lead each student through the journey of the course as they come to new understandings about the material. The role of the student is to be open to the material, ask questions, and meet due dates. I am always up front about expectations. This is an upper-level, three-

credit course condensed into ***seven and a half weeks***; this means you need to jump in right away and stay on top of deadlines. You will spend a significant amount of time on this class during each of the seven weeks. Please contact me right away with questions or concerns. I am here to help you meet your goals.

QUESTIONS / TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Address all questions regarding course content, assignments, or grades to me at:

mgonza72@asu.edu

All questions regarding logging into the Herberger Online site or technical difficulties when accessing or submitting assignments or exams should be directed to:

holsupport@asu.edu

OR

Website: <http://herbergeronline.asu.edu/help>

Herberger technical support is only available Monday through Friday 8 am - 5 pm.

Exam Resets:

If you have technical difficulties during an exam **do not** submit the exam. Instead, close your internet browser without submitting the exam and re-open the Herberger Online website and log back into the exam. The system will then allow **you** to reset the exam and you will be given a completely new exam to complete. Only one student reset per exam is allowed, and only a total of two resets per student per semester on two different exams are allowed. No resets will be available outside of the exam period.

GRADING SCALE

97-100 % = A+

92-96.9 % = A

88-91.9 % = A-

84-87.9 % = B+

80-83.9 % = B

76-79.9 % = B-

72-75.9 % = C+

68-71.9 % = C

60-67.9 % = D

0-59.9 % = E

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Review assignments (essays):** At the conclusion of each Act of the course you will be asked to respond to posed questions based on the readings, films, and contextual information on the course website. For each assignment, answer the questions in a 2-3 page essay with an introduction and conclusion. See the course calendar for the posting and due dates for each review assignment. To respond to each assignment, draw from your readings, viewings, and any outside sources you deem fit to cite. Please save a copy of each assignment and **keep a copy of the confirmation code** in the event of a problem.

Each review assignment is worth 15 points
Total: 5 assignments x 15 points = 75 points

2. **Discussion Postings:** During each Act of the course, you will be asked to participate in a discussion with your classmates. For each discussion prompt, post your response to the discussion question. Your response should fully answer the discussion question in a full paragraph (*minimum of 2 paragraphs or 8-12 sentences*). Please take the time to look over any discussion posts submitted by your classmates as your reaction to their responses may add depth to your own response.

At the beginning of each week you will post your response to the discussion prompt. **By the end of each week you will need to respond to two of your classmates' postings.** You will earn two points per post and two points per response. Please note that, except for the first discussion prompt, each prompt will refer to the reading and viewing from the previous week.

Each discussion posting is worth 5 points
Total: 5 postings x 5 points = 25 points

Each response posting is worth 2 points
Total: 10 postings x 2 points = 20 points

3. **Exams:** At the end of the semester, a comprehensive exam will be given (see course calendar for specific dates). The final exam will consist of 60 multiple choice questions based on the readings, films, and contextual information on the course website. The exam will be available on the website for a 72 hour time period. However, once you open the exam it will be timed to automatically shut down after three hours.

Each question is worth 1 point
Total: 60 questions x 1 point = 60 points

TOTAL POINTS IN COURSE: 180

All Assignments have due dates/ times, must be completed online, and will not be accepted after the due date/time. No late work will be accepted under any circumstances, except documented medical issues. It is your responsibility to ensure that your work is properly submitted, complete, proofread, and on time.

EXTRA CREDIT

Each Act will have an extra credit opportunity worth three points. I have found that it is often difficult to connect and communicate with students in online classes; as the semester flies by announcements and email correspondence sent by instructors can often go overlooked. To encourage better communication, the extra credit opportunity rewards diligent students who pay attention to announcements and emails. Each Act's extra credit question will be posted for one 48-hour period. Please check the course announcements and any emails I send out frequently so that you do not miss the extra credit opportunity.

VIEWING YOUR GRADES AND COMMENTS

You may check your grade and read your instructor's comments on specific assignments by clicking on "Grades" on the course website. *Be sure to do so frequently to ensure that you are receiving proper credit for all of your work.*

LEARNING ACCOMODATIONS

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ASU Disability Resource Center (<https://eoss.asu.edu/drc> ; Phone: (480) 965-1234) at the start of the semester. This is a very important step as accommodations may be difficult to make retroactively. If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, in order to assure that you receive your accommodations in a timely manner, please present this documentation to me no later than the end of the first week of the semester so that your needs can be addressed effectively.

FORM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL WRITTEN WORK

- 1. Use 12 point Times New Roman font.**
- 2. Use 1-inch margins on all sides of the assignment.**
- 3. Double space the assignment**
- 4. Follow the MLA Style Guide, especially for the creation of your Works Cited page.**
A free version of this guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- 5. Cite your sources according to MLA in-text citation guidelines.**
For an overview: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/>
- 6. Save your assignments in ".doc", ".docx", or ".pdf" format.**
- 7. List all the sources cited in your essay in a Works Cited page at the end.**
- 8. Spell check and proof read your work before you submit it.**

HOW TO DO WELL IN THE COURSE

Since this is an upper division course I expect you to approach it with a critical eye for both familiar information and new ideas. As we read, or possibly re-read the plays and view the films, be open to learning about new ways of reading Shakespeare through texts and images. Aim to be an active reader or viewer, attentive to such elements as metaphor and dramatic structure.

This course moves very quickly! Do not let yourself get behind by even a few days!

To do well in the course, here is a suggested plan of work for you to follow each week:

Each Monday: Complete the discussion prompt for the week. (This will be based on the readings from the previous week).

Tuesday: Click on the appropriate "Act" and read the lecture reading material that appears on the course page (this is labeled by Scene and each segment is listed by bullet point).

Wednesday - Friday: Read the introductory guide to the assigned play. Read the play. Watch the film/film clips. Read the Review Assignment Prompt. Keep it posted for yourself as you complete the reading and viewing for that Act. Take note of the Review due date. Jot down essay idea notes. Set a writing schedule for yourself so you can make the due date.

Friday - Monday: Review your peers' responses to the discussion post. **Respond to at least two peers' posts.**

Throughout the Term:

- Check course announcements and emails frequently.
- Stay aware of any upcoming deadlines.
- Follow the "Form Requirements for all Written Work" listed above.
- Take notes throughout your reading and film viewing. Keep track of big ideas, important themes and concepts, and things you find interesting/intriguing/shocking/confusing. This will make your discussion postings, review assignments, final exam, and extra credit opportunities easier to complete.
- If you have questions about the course content or requirements, send me an email. While we may never meet in person, consistent communication with me will help your grade and hopefully make the course more enjoyable.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

I have a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism in assignments. I define plagiarism using ASU Student Life's definition of the term: "Plagiarism" means using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately.

To avoid charges of plagiarism remember to cite all sources, including the content within the course website. Be warned that all your work will be checked by anti-plagiarism software. Students caught plagiarizing may fail the course and receive a permanent mark of XE (Academic Dishonesty) on their transcript.

For more information, please see the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy: <https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity>

If you wish to withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so by January 9th 2018. Course registration changes are processed through MyASU: <http://my.asu.edu>.

ABOR CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

ABOR Resolution: In the wake of the incidents at Penn State, The Arizona Board of Regents reaffirms its commitment to safety on our campuses. Our policies prohibit intimidation, harassment, threats, and acts of violence. All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct must be immediately reported to law enforcement. We are resolved that there will be zero tolerance of abusive and violent conduct at Arizona's Universities.

Prohibited conduct:

1. All forms of student academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.
1. Endangering, threatening, or causing physical harm to any member of the university community or to oneself, causing reasonable apprehension of such harm or engaging in conduct or communications that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of intent to harm.

COURSE SCHEDULE WITH DUE DATES*

NOTE: ALL DUE DATE TIMES REFER TO ARIZONA TIME

Act I: 1/10/18-1/19/18 (Act I Essay due Friday, January 19, at 11:59 pm)

Act I, scene 1: "I will tell you the beginning . . ."

Introduction to the course, Shakespeare's life and theatre, Shakespeare's texts
Introduction to the texts of Shakespeare's plays

Act I, scene 2: "Words, words, words": Reading the text of a Shakespeare play:
From stage to page to stage to film: the many incarnations of a Shakespeare play

Assignments:

Read: Lecture reading material, Guide to *Titus Andronicus* and Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*

Watch: *Titus*, directed by Julie Taymor

Discussion Posts Open: #1 on Wednesday, January 10

Discussions Responses Due: #1 by Monday, January 15, at 11:59 pm

**** ACT I Extra Credit DUE by Friday, January 19, at 11:59 pm ****

Act II: 1/17/18-1/26/18 (Act II Essay due Friday, January 26, at 11:59 pm)

Act II, scene 1: "If this were play'd upon a stage now . . ."

Shakespeare in the theatre, "Reading" a stage production

Act II: scene 2: "fancy's images . . ."

Shakespeare on film, "Reading" a film

Assignments:

Read: Lecture reading material, Guide to *Much Ado About Nothing* and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

Watch: *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Kenneth Branagh

Discussion Posts Open: #2 on Wednesday, January 17

Discussions Responses Due: #2 by Monday, January 22, at 11:59 pm

**** ACT II Extra Credit DUE by Friday, January 26, at 11:59 pm ****

Act III: 1/24/18-2/02/18 (Act III Essay due Friday, February 2, at 11:59 pm)

Act III: "Thus did I keep my person fresh and new . . ."

Theories about dramatic characters: on the page, on stage, on film

Assignments:

Read: Lecture reading material, Guide to *Twelfth Night* and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Watch: *Twelfth Night*, directed by Trevor Nunn

"To be or not to be" clips

Discussion Posts Open: #3 on Wednesday, January 24

Discussions Responses Due: #3 by Monday, January 29 at 11:59 pm

****ACT III Extra Credit DUE by Friday, February 2, at 11:59 pm ****

Act IV: 1/31/18-2/9/18 (Act IV Essay due Friday, February 9, at 11:59 pm)

Act IV: "Look ye how they change!"

Adaptations and Offshoots

Assignments:

Read: Lecture reading material, Guide to *Macbeth* and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Watch: *Throne of Blood*, directed by Akira Kurosawa

Discussion Posts Open: #4 on Wednesday, January 31

Discussions Responses Due: #4 by Monday, February 5, at 11:59 pm

****ACT IV Extra Credit DUE by Friday, February 9, at 11:59 pm ****

Act V: 2/7/18-2/16/18 (Act V Essay due Friday, February 16 at 11:59 pm)

Act V: "And there's an end."

Putting it all together on stage and film: *The Taming of the Shrew*

Assignments:

Read: Lecture reading material, Guide to *The Taming of the Shrew* and Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*

Watch: *Shrew* clips and *The Taming of the Shrew*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli

Discussion Posts Open: #5 on Wednesday, February 7

Discussions Responses Due: #5 by Monday, February 12, at 11:59 pm

****ACT V Extra Credit DUE by Friday, February 16, at 11:59 pm ****

FINAL EXAM –

Exam window opens **Monday, February 19th**, at 12:01 am and closes **Friday, February 23rd**, at 11:59 pm. Once you begin the exam you will have three hours to complete it.

VISUAL COURSE SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/7	1/8 Class Begins	1/9	1/10 Act I Discussions Open	1/11	1/12	1/13
1/14	1/15 Act I Discussion Response Due	1/16	1/17 Act II Discussions Open	1/18	1/19 Act I Essay & Extra Credit Due	1/20
1/21	1/22 Act II Discussion Response Due	1/23	1/24 Act III Discussions Open	1/25	1/26 Act II Essay & Extra Credit Due	1/27
1/28	1/29 Act III Discussion Response Due	1/30	1/31 Act IV Discussions Open	2/1	2/2 Act III Essay & Extra Credit Due	2/3
2/4	2/5 Act IV Discussion Response Due	2/6	2/7 Act V Discussions Open	2/8	2/9 Act IV Essay & Extra Credit Due	2/10
2/11	2/12 Act V Discussion Response Due	2/13	2/14	2/15	2/16 Act V Essay & Extra Credit Due	2/17
2/18	2/19 Final Exam Opens	2/20	2/21	2/22	2/23 Final Exam Closes/ Class Ends	2/24
2/25	2/26	2/27	2/28	3/1	3/2	3/3

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POINT BREAKDOWN w/ due dates

Assignment Possible	Due Date	Points Received/Points
Act I Discussion	1/15/18	___/5
Act I Response #1	1/15/18	___/2
Act I Response #2	1/15/18	___/2
Act I Review Essay	1/19/18	___/15
Act II Discussion	1/22/18	___/5
Act II Response #1	1/22/18	___/2
Act II Response #2	1/22/18	___/2
Act II Review Essay	1/26/18	___/15
Act III Discussion	1/29/18	___/5
Act III Response #1	1/29/18	___/2
Act III Response #2	1/29/18	___/2
Act III Review Essay	2/2/18	___/15
Act IV Discussion	2/5/18	___/5
Act IV Response #1	2/5/18	___/2
Act IV Response #2	2/5/18	___/2
Act IV Review Essay	2/9/18	___/15
Act V Discussion	2/12/18	___/5
Act V Response #1	2/12/18	___/2
Act V Response #2	2/12/18	___/2
Act V Review Essay	2/16/18	___/15
Final Exam	2/19/1-2/23/18	___/60
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Total Extra Credit		___ (max of 15)
Total Points		___/180