SHAKESPEARE
Tuesday, 9.00am-12.00pm

Instructor Information

Name Dr Varsha Panjwani
Email varsha.panjwani@york.ac.uk
Twitter @EarlyModernDoc
Office hours Monday 2pm-4pm
Other time slots might be available by appointment

Course Overview

This course has a two-pronged focus; on the one hand, it is an opportunity to undertake a detailed study of Shakespeare’s verbal and theatrical languages, and on the other hand, it equips you to investigate Renaissance London’s importance in shaping Shakespeare's plays and Shakespeare's importance in shaping some of the fiercest debates about agency and government, family, and national identity in London and the world today. The two concerns are tightly interlaced and demonstrate how Shakespeare continues to occupy a dominant status in English literature and culture today.

Course Objectives

By the end of this elective, you will be able to:

- critically analyse the verbal, generic, structural, and dramatic qualities of Shakespeare’s plays
- relate Shakespeare’s plays to the historical, cultural, social, literary, and creative contexts in which they were produced
- demonstrate an intimate understanding of the interpretive choices involved in editing and performing Shakespeare’s plays
- participate in some of the dominant debates informing the study of Shakespearean drama
- put into practice a number of transferable skills such as close reading, editing, reviewing, presentation, researching, and critical writing
- exhibit an enhanced understanding of Shakespeare’s place in British and World literature and culture

Course Methodology

Course content is delivered through close reading, discussion, seminars, workshops, and field trips. Each of these activities is mutually enhancing.

Course Assessment

Mid-Term Paper (20%)
You are expected to complete a take-home exercise. Further guidance is provided prior to the submission.
Portfolio (60%)
A portfolio consisting of research exercises, editing exercises, and reflection on seminar topics. In each case, the assignment must be ten to twelve pages. Ample practice and guidance is given prior to the submission.

Attendance & Participation (20%)
Marks are awarded for presentations, punctuality, attendance, robust participation in seminars including completing preparatory reading and research tasks, and meeting deadlines.

Required Readings
It is essential that you read and reflect upon the relevant reading before each class. Although any modern edition of the plays is fine, the ones in brackets are particularly useful.

- Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (Sourcebooks Shakespeare edition which comes with a CD)
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (ed. by Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor for Arden Shakespeare or Sourcebooks Shakespeare edition which comes with a CD)

Time-Table: Seminar Topics, Texts, Assignment Deadlines, Field Trips

**Week 1: Tuesday, 12 January**
Topic: Introduction
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]
Further Reading:

**Week 2: Tuesday, 19 January**
Topic: Shakespeare Plays with Genre
Text: *Twelfth Night*
Further Reading:

**Week 3: Tuesday, 26 January (TBC)**
**Evening Field Trip: Performance of Dottir: A new play about the female voice in Shakespeare’s plays**

**Week 4: Tuesday, 2 February**
Topic: Performance Choices/Reviewing
Text: Various Texts [photocopies will be supplied]
Further Reading:

**Week 5: Tuesday, 9 February**
Topic: Shakespeare’s London and Theatre Business
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]
Further Reading:

**Week 6: Tuesday, 16 February (TBC)**
Field Trip/Walking Lecture [within the seminar]: Shakespeare’s Globe
Topic: Globe and the City
Further Reading:

**Week 7: Tuesday, 23 February**
Topic: Representing the Uncanny
Text: *Macbeth*
Further Reading:

**Week 8: Tuesday, 1 March: No Seminar: Mid-Term Break**

**Week 9: Tuesday, 8 March**
Topic: Textual Culture and Editing Shakespeare
Text: *Hamlet*
Further Reading:

**Assessment Deadline: Mid-Term Paper**

**Week 10: Tuesday, 15 March**
Topic: Talking to the Audience
Text: *Hamlet*
Further Reading:
Week 11: Tuesday: 22 March  
Guest Lecture: Actor Christopher York  
A young and dynamic actor; he has played many Shakespeare roles including Richard III and Romeo to rave reviews. For more information: http://www.castingcallpro.com/uk/actor/profile/christopher-york

Week 12: Tuesday: 29 March  
Topic: Global Shakespeare  
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]  
Further Reading:  

Week 13: Tuesday: 5 April (TBC)  
Field Trip [within the seminar]: National Theatre Archives  
Topic: Unfinished Play or Excellent Experiment?  
Text: Timon of Athens  
Further Reading:  

Week 14: Tuesday: 12 April (TBC)  
Field Trip [within the seminar]: Victoria and Albert Museum  
Topic: Shakespeare in Popular Culture  
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]  
Further Reading:  

Week 15: Tuesday: 19 April  
Topic: Revision and Future Directions

Week 16: Tuesday: 26 April  
Assessment Deadline: Final Paper