

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English
HL 3030 Major Author Study: Shakespeare
Course Blog: <https://hl3030shakespeare.wordpress.com>
Semester 2 (Academic Year 2015-2016)
Tuesdays, HSS Seminar Room 7; 9:30am – 12:30pm

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Course Description

This course focuses on Shakespeare Studies. Discussions of Shakespeare's works will include historical, social, and cultural contexts of the period when the works were produced. Students will also be introduced to major theoretical frameworks that have influenced the development of Shakespeare Studies over the last few decades.

Course Objective

This course introduces students to Shakespeare Studies by exploring developments in literature, language, and culture in the early modern period. In addition to learning about stage and book printing practices in 16th century England, students will also learn about some of the challenges that Shakespeare and his contemporaries faced in production of literary works. We will consider a range of Shakespearean works, from his early sonnets to his late tragedies. We will also observe selected filmic aspects of the plays, and consider how and why modern adaptations of the Shakespeare's plays appeal to audiences in various parts of the world. Students enrolled in this course are expected to have a background in Renaissance literature, and should be prepared to conduct extensive research for the projects and essays assigned in the course.

Course Assessment

Presentations (including participation): 25%
Coursework Essay: 25% (about 2000 words)
Final Exam: 50%

Required Texts:

Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (2002). ISBN: 978-0141000589

Tentative Reading Schedule

Intro.	Week 1	Introduction
	Week 2	Selected Sonnets (TBA)
Poems	Week 3	<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i> (and critical essay)
	Week 4	Shakespeare and the Stage (selected readings posted online)
Break	Week 5	Chinese New Year Holiday
Tragedies and Comedies	Week 6	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>
	Week 7	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> (and critical essay)
Recess	Week 8	<i>Recess</i>
Roman Histories (Tragedies)	Week 9	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
	Week 10	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> (and critical essay)
Histories	Week 11	<i>Richard II</i>
	Week 12	<i>Henry V</i> (and critical essay)
	Week 13	<i>Henry VI (I)</i>
Review	Week 14	Exam Review