



HL 3030 | MAJOR AUTHOR: SHAKESPEARE

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English, School of Humanities
Course Blog: <https://hl3030shakespeare.wordpress.com/>
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Course Description

This course introduces students to Shakespeare Studies by exploring developments in literature, history, and culture in the early modern period. In addition to learning about stage and book printing practices in 16th century England, students will also be introduced to the challenges that Shakespeare and his contemporaries faced in the production and circulation of literary works. We will study a range of Shakespeare's works, from his early sonnets to his late history play and analyze selected filmic aspects of the plays; in doing so, we will consider how and why modern adaptations of the Shakespeare's plays appeal to audiences in various parts of the world. In the course of examining the literary and historical impact of Shakespeare's works, students will also learn about major theoretical frameworks that have influenced the development of Shakespeare Studies over the last few decades.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) develop links between materials used in this course with those in HL 2002: Renaissance 2002, and be able to identify recurring themes/motifs/literary devices commonly used in early modern literature,
- 2) understand and identify the historical and social elements that influenced Shakespeare's creative output,
- 3) have a basic understanding of how early modern theatres operated in England (i.e. the collaboration among theatre managers, playing companies, playwrights, and stationers; the different types of theatres in London and the audiences they catered to, etc.),
- 4) have a clear understanding of theoretical frameworks that are commonly used in Shakespeare Studies (i.e. New Historicism, Cultural Materialism, Gender Studies, etc.) and their limitations in the study of Shakespeare's works,
- 5) engage with secondary resources and apply their ideas meaningfully in your critical analysis of the texts covered in this course,
- 6) raise critically informed questions in class discussion and assignments which sustain an extended critical treatment of a major author/text,
- 7) and demonstrate teamwork co-operation by developing compelling arguments supported by textual evidence and the capacity to take intellectual risks.

Course Guidelines

You are welcome to make an appointment to see me in my office if you have any concerns about the course. Please keep in mind that appointments should be arranged at least 3 working days in advance.

All materials distributed in class and on the course blog are strictly meant for class lectures and assignments only. These materials are protected by copyright laws and are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity. If you are not familiar with plagiarism guidelines, please consult the university's plagiarism policy here:

<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>

Course Assessment

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| ▪ Final Essay | 30% |
| ▪ Presentation & Participation | 20% |
| ▪ Final Exam | 50% |

Required Texts

William Shakespeare, *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (Ed. A. R. Bruanmuller and Stephen Orgel). New York: Penguin, 2002. ISBN: 9780141000589.

*All other reading materials not listed above will be posted on the course blog.

Tentative course outline

Week	Topic	Text
1	Introduction	Contextualizing Shakespeare Studies
2	Narrative Poems	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
3	Narrative Poems	<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i>
4	The Renaissance Stage	<i>Shakespeare and the Stage</i> (selected readings on course blog)
5	Roman Histories	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>
6	Roman Histories	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
7	English Histories	<i>Richard II</i>
8	English Histories	<i>Henry V</i>
9	Tragedies	<i>Hamlet</i>
10	Tragedies	<i>Macbeth</i>
11	Comedies	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
12	Comedies	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>
13	Review	Exam Review