

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English
HL 3030 Major Author Study: Shakespeare
Course Blog: TBA
AY 2020–2021, SEM 2

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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. The materials covered in this course will introduce a wide variety of Shakespeare's works, including some of his lesser-known but equally influential poems/plays. Over the course of the semester, students will be encouraged to think about the continuities among the different Shakespearean genres and how the ways in which they contributed to English Renaissance literature. In addition, 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 poems 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.

Course Assessment

Presentations – 20%
Critical response paper – 20%
Final essay – 50%
Participation – 10%

Required Texts:

Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (2002). ISBN: 978-0141000589
You may use any other version of Shakespeare's works but pls. be sure to use an edition with act, scene and line numbers (note that line numbers are generally similar in different versions but there will be minor variations).

Important Notes:

You must agree to abide by these guidelines to remain registered in this course

- All students who need to consult should send an email at least 3 working days ahead of time.
- Please allow at least a day or two for responses to emails (with the exception of weekends and public holidays).

- Office consultation: Please come prepared with questions so that we can address your concerns effectively and efficiently.

Important Notes:

- Office consultation: If you would like to make an appointment for consultation outside of office hours, pls. email me at least 3 working days ahead of time. Please come prepared with questions so that we can address your concerns effectively and efficiently.
- Please observe punctuality in class, and if you have to leave early, pls. let me know ahead of time. As usual, pls. be respectful to your classmates and be sure to turn off all electronic devices during lectures and tutorials.

Use of course resources:

- 1) **All materials** distributed in class and on the course blog are meant to be used for class lectures and discussions only. They 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.
 - 2) You are not allowed to record lectures in any form without permission from the instructors. If you have any special requests regarding this matter, you're welcome discuss your concerns with me.
- If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to check our course blog for updates or announcements that you may have missed.
 - Late assignments: written assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty of half a grade each day (including weekends and holidays); if I do not receive an assignment a week after it is due, you will receive a 0 for the essay.
 - Absence in class: if you are absent on the day when an in-class writing assignment is due, you will not be able to make-up for this. Those who are absent for presentations will not have the opportunity to make-up their work in another group's presentation.
 - Any attempt at plagiarism will be subjected to university disciplinary action. Please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policies here:
<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>

Tentative course outline

Week	Topic
Week 1 12 Jan.	Introduction
Week 2 Narrative Poems 19 Jan.	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
Week 3 Narrative Poems 26 Jan.	<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i>
Week 4 Renaissance Stage 3 Feb.	<i>Shakespeare and the Stage</i> (selected readings on course blog)
Week 5 Roman 10 Feb.	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>
Week 6 Roman 17 Feb.	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
Week 7 Roman 24 Feb.	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
Week 8 Histories 10 Mar.	<i>Richard II</i>
Week 9 Histories 17 Mar.	<i>Henry V</i>
Week 10 Histories 24 Mar.	<i>1 Henry VI</i>
Week 11 Tragedies 31 Mar.	<i>Hamlet</i>
Week 12 Tragedies 7 Apr.	<i>Macbeth</i>
Week 13 Comedies 14 Apr.	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>