

UNIVERSITY OF YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & RELATED LITERATURE MA COURSE  
*SHAKESPEARE*



**AUTUMN TERM 2019 – CONVENOR: DR JANE RAISCH**

This course offers a grounding in the fundamentals of Shakespeare studies and Renaissance literature at graduate level. It also considers the place of Shakespeare in English studies as a whole, and as the iconic author of the Renaissance period. Since the time of Jakob Burckhardt in the nineteenth century, it is not too much to say that Shakespeare has occupied a central role within the cultural history of the Renaissance. Shakespeare has also been pivotal in the formation of English as a university discipline and field of research, whether in techniques of textual scholarship, literary interpretation, or the cultural history of selfhood, gender, nation, and ideology. This course is designed both to familiarize students with the practices of Shakespearean research, and to examine larger questions about the humanities as a practice, which the history of Shakespearean studies raises. There will be seminars on a range of issues central to Shakespeare studies and the Renaissance, so not every week will necessarily engage exclusively (or even primarily) with Shakespeare. A range of critical approaches, from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first, from Edmond Malone to New Historicism and beyond, will be interrogated during the course, which will be taught by a range of tutors within the Department.

**REQUIRED READINGS AND BOOKS TO BUY**

**All students must purchase good, scholarly editions of Shakespeare's plays.** It is up to you if you want to buy an anthology (like Norton or Riverside) or to use individual editions of each play (such as Arden or Oxford). The primary plays we are reading this term are as

follows. Please do note that this list is not the exhaustive list of readings for the term, but the main texts to give you a sense of where you might begin reading over the summer. Other readings not listed here will be provided via the course website (which goes live just before term begins)

Required Primary Texts:

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*As You Like It*

*Twelfth Night*

*1 and 2 Henry IV*

*Henry V*

*Hamlet*

*Othello*

*Merchant of Venice*

(We'll also be looking at the minor epics *The Rape of Lucrece* and Christopher Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*, so you may wish to refer to these poems in a good, scholarly edition as well. An online version will be available before term starts too)

Optional Background Reading/Reference:

David Crystal, *Shakespeare's Words* (2002), is a glossary for quick reference

Katherine Duncan-Jones, *Ungentle Shakespeare* (2001), is maybe the least unreliable biography

Samuel Schoenbaum, *Shakespeare's Lives* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1991), shows you why such lives are unreliable

G. Bullough, *Narrative & Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare*, 8 vols. (1957-75), indispensable

Lukas Erne, *Shakespeare's Modern Collaborators* (2008), is the best short guide to textual matters

Andrew Gurr, *The Shakespearean Stage* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1992), the standard work on the original theatres

Stuart Gillespie, *Shakespeare's Books* (2005), is a useful guide to Shakespeare's reading and learning

Lynn Enterline, *Shakespeare's Schoolroom* (2016), is a great introduction to Elizabethan education and classical learning (esp. Ovid)

BRIEF WEEK-BY-WEEK OUTLINE OF THE TERM

Week 2 – Shakespeare and Manuscript Poetry - Richard Rowland

Week 3 – Shakespeare in the Theatre – Brian Cummings

Week 4 – Shakespeare and Chronicle History – Richard Rowland

Week 5 – Shakespeare and Publication History – Helen Smith

Week 6 – Reading Week

Week 7 – Shakespeare and the Archive – Jane Raisch

\*This session is held at the York Minster Library

Week 8 – Being Hamlet – Brian Cummings

Week 9 – Shakespeare, Race, and Religion – Helen Smith

Week 10 – Shakespeare and Minor Epic – Jane Raisch