AUTUMN TERM 2020 – 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 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 listed
below. Please do note that this list is not the exhaustive list of readings for the term. Other readings not listed here will be provided via the course website (which goes live just before term begins)

Primary Module Texts:

*Julius Caesar*
*Pericles*
*Hamlet*
*Othello*
*Merchant of Venice*
Marlowe’s *Hero and Leander* (you may wish to refer to this poem in a good, scholarly edition but an online version will be available)
Selected sonnets by Shakespeare, Donne, and others (electronic versions will be made available)

* N.B. This play is very textual problematic, so a good scholarly edition is essential. The tutor will be using the Oxford World Classics edition, and while it is not required to have this edition, other editions may present a different version of the play, something we’ll specifically address in seminar

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

You’re also especially encouraged to explore recent discussions around Shakespeare and race that will form the topic of our first seminar.

*Critical Race Conversations* – hosted by the Folger Shakespeare Library
*Shakespeare and Race* – hosted by Shakespeare’s Globe
The Shakespeare Association of America has a useful compilation of resources on this subject [here](#).

Stay tuned for a virtual event sponsored by our Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies on What’s Wrong with the Renaissance? to take place 1 October.

BRIEF WEEK-BY-WEEK OUTLINE OF THE TERM

Week 2 – Shakespeare and Whiteness - Katherine Hunt

Week 3 – Shakespeare and Manuscript Poetry – Helen Smith

Week 4 – Shakespeare’s Rome – Freya Sierhuis

Week 5 – Rhetoric, Imitation, and Shakespeare – Kevin Killeen
Week 6 – Reading Week

Week 7 – Marlowe and ‘the East’ – Jane Raisch

Week 8 – Romance and the Global Imagination – Jane Raisch

Week 9 – Sonnets and the Early Modern Male Bully – Kevin Killeen

Week 10 – Shakespeare, Race, and Religion – Helen Smith