

SUMMER 2024 WEEKS 1-3



Shakespeare: His World, Our World

IEEL042

Credit Value*	Delivery	Contact Hours Per module	Self-Directed Hours Per module	Total Hours Per module
5 UoL credit, 2.5 ECTS	On-campus	12-16	34-38	50

*this module is awaiting final approval

Module Leader: Dr. Kate O'Leary

Dr. Kate O'Leary has been a tutor at the University for a number of years in the department for Continuing Education, and Renaissance literature has been central to her teaching and her research. She has also worked in theatre as a director and actor and, on this module, hopes to bring together both academic and practical ideas to Shakespeare's plays.

Module Description

This module will explore how Shakespeare has become central to our way of thinking about ourselves and about others. His work permeates cultures across the world, where his writings are translated into the familiar, whether it be social, psychological or political. Each two-hour session will consist of a lecture and a discussion and analysis of extracts from Shakespeare's most famous works. Students will also have the opportunity to present new approaches to selected moments/speeches/scenes through a piece of writing.

Module Aims:

1. To develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas in written

language.

2. To develop skills in research and collaborative thinking.

3. To provide students with the ability to critically examine a variety of complex texts and to present competing ideas about Shakespeare's work

Content

Why is Shakespeare Important? A brief Introduction to his most famous works

Shakespeare and Politics: leadership, power and treachery

Shakespeare and Identity

Shakespeare and Love

Module Structure

The module will be delivered over a three-week period, 2 x 2 hours per week.

Each session will take the form of a mini lecture, film extracts and discussion. The students will demonstrate an awareness of how Shakespeare has become important to our cultural lives and to his position in our collective imagination. Students will have opportunity to demonstrate an increased mastery of research, communication, and analytical skills through the tasks and group discussions completed throughout the course.

In addition, it is expected that students will spend 34-38 study hours outside of the classroom contact hours on activities including assigned reading, optional reading of areas of personal interest, homework tasks, web research and preparation for assessment

Teaching Methods

The teaching approach will include the following:

Taught sessions

Group discussions

Assessment:

Assessment will be by:

Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder)
(worth 100% of the overall mark)

Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments

Course Structure:

The course will be both theoretical and creative in nature, with the sessions focused on giving the students the opportunity to discuss and analyze given texts and encouraging them to engage in imaginative and inventive thought

The indicative schedule is as follows:

Week One: Shakespeare and Politics. Text: *Julius Caesar*

Session One:

Why is Shakespeare Important? A brief Introduction to his most famous works.

In this class we will discuss Shakespeare's work, including individual contributions on past experiences in school/theatre/film. Through power-point the class will be introduced to the world of Shakespeare and how the Reformation and Renaissance contributed to the flowering of England's most fruitful literary period

Session Two:

Shakespeare and Politics: leadership, power and treachery.

In this session we will consider why Shakespeare's political plays are still rehearsed today. By examining a selection of films/theatre productions of *Julius Caesar*, we will understand how different cultures adapt and transform Elizabethan and Jacobean intrigues into comments on modern political and social concerns

Week Two: Shakespeare: Who are We? Text: *Hamlet*

Session Three:

Shakespeare and Identity. Text: Hamlet

Who are we? Why do we think the way we do? Do others think like us? In this session we will look at Shakespeare's most famous character, Hamlet, and consider why this creation tells us so much about ourselves today. By examining extracts from the play and looking at comments on the character from critics and psychologists we can explore how Shakespeare has 'invented the human' [Harold Bloom]

Session Four:

Shakespeare and Identity. Female characters in Hamlet

In this class we will consider the female characters in *Hamlet* and how these reflect contemporary and modern interpretations of women. By examining Gertrude and Ophelia, we will explore how different ages imaging these two dramatic creations

Week Three: Shakespeare and Love. Text: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Session Five:

Shakespeare and Love: passion, practicality and persuasion:

This class will focus on Shakespeare's complex attitude to love. It will examine and critique extracts from a selection of plays how love can take various forms, from the glorious to the ridiculous and from the unwise to the possessive.

Session Six:

Shakespeare and Love 2

In this session we will continue to examine Shakespeare's treatment of love. What different kinds of love can be expressed? How many different types of love are found in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and how can these be interpreted to a modern audience?

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

Learning outcome	Assessment component which assesses this learning outcome
Understand and communicate complex ideas in written language	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)
Research a topic and work collaboratively in this research to produce a written essay/reflection in academic suitable style, including the appropriate use of reference and source material.	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)
Demonstrate knowledge of how to critically analyze a variety of complex texts to present competing ideas about Shakespeare's work	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)

Skills:

Key skills that will be developed:

Skill	How this skill is developed	Mode of assessment
Collaboration and Teamwork	Group discussions, activities and tasks in class & research	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)
Communication	Orally in group discussions, activities and tasks in class, in writing by production	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)

	of assessed assignment	
Analytical skills	Students will be asked to analyze a range of primary and secondary sources, evaluate their decisions, and present their findings in small group discussions.	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)
Creative Thinking	Students will be encouraged to think creatively about the topic of the written assignment.	Written essay or other written piece 1000-1200 words (Directing/acting/design folder) (worth 100% of the overall mark)

Books, ebooks and websites:

The University Website at www.liv.ac.uk/library provides access to many relevant books and electronic books, as well as academic journals and databases.

Recommended Pre-Course Reading

William Shakespeare: A Very Short Introduction. Stanley Wells OUP 2015

The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare Emma Smith CUP 2007

Shakespeare's Tragedies: A Short Introduction Stanley Wells OUP 2017

Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare on Film ed Russell Jackson CUP 2007

A Feminist Companion to Shakespeare ed Dymphna Callaghan Blackwell, 2001

Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human Harold Bloom Fourth Estate 1999

Political Shakespeare ed Dollimore and Sinfield MUP 1996

All relevant reading material for the module, such as chapters from books, data, and newspaper articles, will be available on CANVAS.

