

# FULL COURSE OUTLINES

## **ENGL 3424 Shakespeare: 'to hold the mirror up to nature'**

This course focusses upon a selection of Shakespeare plays which we will look at in their own historical context, and in modern performance. We will think about how these plays intervene in their own context and deploy contemporary sources and anxieties, in particular examining the use of history in the final three plays of the semester. We will also think about how these plays have been reimagined and reappropriated for modern audiences, and particularly consider how we deal with the problematic nature of *Merchant* and *Henry V*.

Each week will involve a two hour lecture/class in which you will be expected to participate in discussion. Please ensure you have read the play and at least three of the week's set critical readings.

Every two weeks you will have a tutorial focussing on one play, for which you must prepare a presentation of some kind. This presentation should draw upon the readings suggested and the play itself.

### **Grading**

Your grade for the term will aggregate your participation in lectures and tutorials, two courseworks, and an end of term examination. Fifty per cent will come from your participation and courseworks, with your examination making up the remaining half.

### **Participation**

You are expected to participate fully in your teaching. Every tutorial presentation will receive a mark. At the end of term, I will assign you a mark for your participation in lectures and tutorials. This will then be combined with your average presentation mark to give your final participation grade, which will count for 10% of your overall grade.

### **Coursework 1.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday – Week 7

Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early February.

### **Coursework 2.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN Thursday – Week 12

Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early April.

### **Examination**

Your examination will be a three hour paper, in which you must answer three essay questions from a selection of twenty. One must be comparative and one must be based on a reading of the play(s) in performance.

## Course outline

### Week 1

**Lecture:** Shakespeare in his own time

**Performance,** 4<sup>th</sup> February: *Hamlet*, Sam Wanamaker Theatre

### Week 2

**Lecture** *Hamlet*, tragedy and religion

### Week 3

**Lecture** *Hamlet* and textual difference

### Week 4

**Lecture** *Much Ado About Nothing* and Shakespearean comedy

**Tutorial assignment** Please prepare a five minute presentation on one of the articles on *Hamlet* from the set reading. Evaluate the article's strengths and weaknesses.

### Week 5

**Lecture** *Much Ado About Nothing* in performance

**Performance,** 5<sup>th</sup> March: *Merchant of Venice*, Sam Wanamaker Theatre

### Week 6

**Lecture** *The Merchant of Venice* and race

**Tutorial assignment** Choose a scene from *Much Ado*. Devise your own performance notes: how would you stage the scene? Why? What effect does your direction have on the scene's meaning? You will give a five minute presentation on your 'production'.

### Week 7

**Lecture** *The Merchant of Venice* as tragicomedy

## COURSEWORK 1 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday

### Week 8

**Lecture** History plays

**Tutorial assignment** You're going to hold a debate over whether Shylock is a villain or a victim. More information will be given to you in the preceding tutorial.

**Performance,** 1<sup>st</sup> April: *Henry V*, Donmar Warehouse

### Week 9

**Lecture** *Henry V* and kingship

### Week 10

**Lecture** *Henry V*, masculinity and nationalism

**Tutorial assignment** Please watch at least one modern production of *Henry V*, as well as at least two of the reviews on the reading list and two of the articles. Write a five minute presentation on the question 'to what purposes has *Henry V* been put by modern productions?'

### Week 11

**Lecture** The *Henry VI* tetralogy

## **Week 12**

**Lecture** *Henry VI* and the people

**Tutorial assignment** Please compare 2 *Henry VI* with its source material (either Holinshed's *Chronicle* or Hall's *The Union of the Noble and Illustre Famelies of Lancastre and Yorke*), and prepare a five minute presentation on how the play adapts its source materials. How do these changes alter the play's meaning and message?

**COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday**

## **Week 13**

**Lecture** Women in the history plays

## **Week 14**

**Lecture** Revision

**Tutorial assignment** Please prepare a five minute presentation answering the question 'is Shakespeare politically conservative?'

## **ENGL 3421 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century Playwrights**

This course focusses on the presentation of power, gender, sexuality and justice in these five early modern tragedies. We will consider the plays in their own historical and performance context, thinking about the way that their original staging affect their meaning. While many of these plays are not often performed today, this course will involve looking at past productions using performance reviews and documentation.

Each week will involve a two hour lecture/class in which you will be expected to participate in discussion. Please ensure you have read the play and at least three of the week's set critical readings. Every two weeks you will have a tutorial focussing on one play, for which you must prepare a presentation of some kind. This presentation should draw upon the readings suggested and the play itself.

The final two weeks of classes and final tute will be comparative, asking you to draw together the plays we have studied this semester and think thematically about them.

### **Grading**

Your grade for the term will aggregate your participation in lectures and tutorials, two courseworks, and an end of term examination. Fifty per cent will come from your participation and courseworks, with your examination making up the remaining half.

### **Participation**

You are expected to participate fully in your teaching. Every tutorial presentation will receive a mark. At the end of term, I will assign you a mark for your participation in lectures and tutorials. This will then be combined with your average presentation mark to give your final participation grade, which will count for 10% of your overall grade.

### **Coursework 1.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday – Week 7.

Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early February.

### **Coursework 2.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday – Week 12. Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early April.

### **Examination**

Your examination will be a three hour paper, in which you must answer three essay questions from a selection of twenty. One must be comparative.

## Course outline

### Week 1

**Lecture** Early modern theatre in performance

### Week 2

**Lecture** Tragedy

### Week 3

**Lecture** *The Spanish Tragedy* and revenge tragedy

### Week 4

**Lecture** Counsel and power

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation examining how 1580s audiences would have felt about Hieronimo in *The Spanish Tragedy*, considering it in context.

### Week 5

**Lecture** *Arden of Faversham* and true crime

### Week 6

**Lecture** *Arden of Faversham* and the household

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation answering the question 'Why was *Arden of Faversham* popular with 1590s audiences?'

### Week 7

**Lecture** The court and horror in *The Duchess of Malfi*

**COURSEWORK 1 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday**

### Week 8

**Lecture** Caught in a trap: Bosola and the Duchess

**Tutorial assignment:** Please write a five minute presentation on the question 'is the ending of *The Duchess of Malfi* satisfying?'

### Week 9

**Lecture** Spectacle and spectacles in *The White Devil*

### Week 10

**Lecture** Justice in *The White Devil*

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation on the question 'What is *The White Devil* about?'

### Week 11

**Lecture** 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, female virtue and incest

### Week 12

**Lecture** Power and justice

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation that answers the question 'Is 'Tis Pity She's a Whore a misogynist play?'

**COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday**

### Week 13

**Lecture** Sex and the household

## **Week 14**

**Lecture** Revision

**Tutorial assignment** Pick one: *Duchess of Malfi*, *White Devil*, *'Tis Pity*. Please prepare a five minute presentation on how your chosen play would be affected if staged in a) an indoor theatre b) an outdoor theatre.

## **ENGL 3410: Modern novels on screen**

This course explores uses of a variety of narrative styles in a selection of modern novels, and how these narrative styles are translated and transformed on screen. We will consider, over the course of the semester, what defines ‘modern’ novels, and how different writers approach the task of representing psychological realism and the ‘human condition’. We will think carefully about how modern film adaptations work with and through the conventions and constraints of cinematic form to reproduce and reimagine the psychological effects of these novels. We will, finally, consider how these novels and their adaptations deal with identity – queer identity in *Dracula*, *Cloud Atlas* and *Call Me By Your Name*, and national and ethnic identity in *Sunset Song* and *Cloud Atlas*.

Each week will involve a two hour lecture/class in which you will be expected to participate in discussion. Please ensure you have read the novel and at least three of the week’s set critical readings. Every two weeks you will have a tutorial focussing on one novel, for which you must prepare a presentation of some kind. This presentation should draw upon the readings suggested and the novel itself.

### **Grading**

Your grade for the term will aggregate your participation in lectures and tutorials, two courseworks, and an end of term examination. Fifty per cent will come from your participation and courseworks, with your examination making up the remaining half.

### **Participation**

You are expected to participate fully in your teaching. Every tutorial presentation will receive a mark. At the end of term, I will assign you a mark for your participation in lectures and tutorials. This will then be combined with your average presentation mark to give your final participation grade, which will count towards your overall grade.

### **Coursework 1.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday WEEK 7

Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early February.

### **Coursework 2.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN WEEK 12 Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in mid-March.

### **Examination**

Your examination will be a three hour paper, in which you must answer three essay questions from a selection of twenty. One must be comparative and one must draw upon one of the adaptations we’ve studied.

## Course outline

### Week 1

Lecture Narrative and film

### Week 2

Lecture *Dracula*

### Week 3

Lecture *Dracula*

### Week 4

Lecture *The Great Gatsby*

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation on one of these themes in *Dracula*: race, nationalism, sexuality, perversion.

### Week 5

Lecture *The Great Gatsby*

### Week 6

Lecture *Sunset Song*

**Tutorial assignment** Pick a section of *Gatsby*. Write a five minute presentation on how successful you think the film was at adapting this part of the novel.

### Week 7

Lecture *Sunset Song*

## COURSEWORK 1 DEADLINE: 4PM, Thursday

### Week 8

Lecture *Atonement*

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation answering the question 'How does *Sunset Song* present Scottish identity?'

### Week 9

Lecture *Atonement*

### Week 10

Lecture *Cloud Atlas*

**Tutorial assignment** Please write a five minute presentation comparing the novel and film of *Atonement* with regard to one of these themes: uncertainty, writing, love.

### Week 11

Lecture *Cloud Atlas*

### Week 12

Lecture *Call Me By Your Name*

**Tutorial assignment** Please pick one of the storylines in *Cloud Atlas* (eg. Sonmi-451). Write a five minute presentation on how effectively you think the film tells this storyline.

## COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINE: 4PM, THURSDAY

### Week 13

Lecture *Call Me By Your Name*



## **Week 14**

**Lecture** Revision

**Tutorial assignment** Pick one sequence from the film of *Call Me By Your Name* that uses music (eg. 'Futile Devices' playing over Elio sitting in the darkened garden). Write a five minute presentation on how this music contributes to the storytelling.