



Course Description

Shakespeare in our day. What draws us to Shakespeare? What draws us to a language and society far from our own? That Shakespeare can be a riveting stage force is demonstrated time and again, from the most humble small town production to New York's Broadway. But where is our time in the world of **Macbeth**, **Hamlet**, **Othello**, **Romeo and Juliet**, **King Lear** and **Henry V**? What characters come away from those plays to deliver a message to the contemporary world? And what do they say? In this course, we'll read six plays by William Shakespeare (as named above) and view theatrical and cinematic performances. **All The World's A Grave: a New Play by William Shakespeare** (Penguin Books 2008) by contemporary author, John Reed, will serve as our gateway to Shakespeare's time, and then, back to our own. Course requirements: memorization of one Shakespeare Sonnet, one in-class presentation, and a final paper.

Requirements

Reading of assigned materials and preparation for class

Memorization of any of the Shakespeare sonnets

In class presentation introducing one of the plays (which includes a scene reading). The presentations will be prepared independently or in groups, depending on class size. The introductory presentations should include a cultural and literary context for the play.

Final Paper: 1200-1500 words on a topic of the student's choice.

Academic Materials

Henry V, by William Shakespeare (available new or used)

Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare (available new or used)

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare (available new or used)

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare (available new or used)

Othello, by William Shakespeare (available new or used)

King Lear, by William Shakespeare (available new or used)

All The World's A Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare, by John Reed (Penguin/Plume, 2008)

Resources

Footnotes to **All The World's A Grave**, as well as suggested scene readings and other materials, are available at alltheworldsagrave.com

Orientation	Day 1	Class introductions Course materials Presentation assignments Brief introduction to Shakespeare and his time
All The World's A Grave	Day 2	Assignments: Read All The World's A Grave, student presentations In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Discussion (discussion questions provided)
Henry V	Day 3	Assignments: Read Henry V, student presentations In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Discussion (links on questions provided)
Henry V	Day 4	In class: Viewing of Henry V (suggested productions on CD/ Video below): 1944, Two Cities Films: Laurence Oliver, director and featured actor 1979, BBC: David Giles, director, with Jocelyne Boisseau and David Gwillim 1989, Renaissance Films: Kenneth Branagh, director and featured actor, with Emma Thompson
Romeo and Juliet	Day 5	Assignments: Read Romeo and Juliet, student presentations In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Discussion (links on questions provided)
Romeo and Juliet	Day 6	Viewing of Romeo and Juliet (suggested productions on CD/Video below): 1968, Paramount: Franco Zeffirelli, director, with Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey 1978, BBC: Alan Rakoff, director, with Patrick Ryecart and Rebecca Saire 1996: Baz Luhrmann, director, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes

Macbeth	Day 7	<p>Assignments: Read Macbeth, student presentations</p> <p>In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Due date for choice of sonnets (each student is to have chosen one Shakespeare sonnet to memorize) Discussion (links on questions provided)</p>
Macbeth	Day 8	<p>Viewing of Macbeth (suggested productions on CD/Video below): 1948, Mercury: Orson Welles, director and featured actor 2006: Geoffrey Wright, director, with Sam Worthington and Victoria Hill</p>
Hamlet	Day 9	<p>Assignments: Read Hamlet, student presentations</p> <p>In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Due date for choice of sonnets (each student is to have chosen one Shakespeare sonnet to memorize) Discussion (links on questions provided)</p>
Hamlet	Day 10	<p>Viewing of selected Hamlet (suggested productions on CD/Video below): 1948, Two Cities Film: Lawrence Olivier, director, and featured actor 1996, Castle Rock: Kenneth Branagh, director and featured actor 1990, Warner Bros.: Franco Zeffirelli, with Mel Gibson, Glenn Close and Helena Bonham Carter (much shorter than the Branagh)</p>
Hamlet (optional day)	Day 10b	Continued viewing of Hamlet
Othello	Day 11	<p>Assignments: Read Othello, student presentations</p> <p>In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Due date for final paper topics (to be approved in class) Discussion (links on questions provided)</p>

Othello	Day 12	Viewing of Othello (suggested productions on CD/Video below): 1981, BBC: Jonathan Miller, director, with Anthony Hopkins, Bob Hoskins and Penelope Wilton 1995: Oliver Parker, director, with Laurence Fishburne, Irene Jacob and Kenneth Branagh
King Lear	Day 13	Assignments: Read King Lear, student presentations In class: Student Presentation/Introduction to the play and reading of a scene Discussion (links on questions provided)
King Lear	Day 14	Viewing of King Lear (suggested productions on CD/Video below): 1984, Granada: Michael Elliott, director, with Lawrence Olivier, Diana Rigg and John Hurt 1997, BBC: Richard Eyre, director, with Ian Holm
All The World's A Grave	Day 15	Assignments: Final Paper Sonnets In class: Students present sonnets Discussion (discussion questions provided)

LINKS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS / TOPICS

(by play)

Henry V:

- ✿ <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/henryv.html>
- ✿ <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/henryv/study.html>
- ✿ <http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwart/engl339/hv.html>
- ✿ <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/WileyCDA/LitNote/Henry-V-Study-and-Homework-Help-Essay-and-Review-Questions.id-13.pageNum-91.html>
- ✿ <http://dsc.dixie.edu/shakespeare/q&ehenry5.htm>

Romeo and Juliet:

- ✿ <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/romeoandjuliet.html>
- ✿ <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/romeojuliet/study.html>
- ✿ <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~bgriffin/Romeo/rom-sq.htm>
- ✿ <http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/xRomeoJul.html>
- ✿ <http://www2.english.uiuc.edu/lnewcomb/English%20117/romeoAndJulietStudyQuestions.htm>

Macbeth:

- ✿ <http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwart/engl339/macbeth.html>
- ✿ <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/study.html>
- ✿ <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~sflores/macbeth.html>
- ✿ <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/7213/macbethstudyquestions.html>
- ✿ http://english.sxu.edu/boyer/304_rdg_qst/mac_nor_qst.htm

Hamlet:

- ✿ <http://www2.english.uiuc.edu/lnewcomb/English%20117/hamlet%20study%20questions.htm>
- ✿ http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/study/201_Shake_Hamlet01.html
- ✿ <http://library.thinkquest.org/10502/1997/hamstud.html>
- ✿ <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/hamlet/study.html>
- ✿ http://www.english.uwosh.edu/henson/281/hamlet_sq.html
- ✿ <http://vccslitonline.vccs.edu/TheHamletSite/stdygd1.htm>
- ✿ <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/shakespeare/hamlet.htm>

Othello:

- ✿ <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~bgriffin/Othello/oth-sq.htm>
- ✿ <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/shakespeare/othello.htm>
- ✿ <http://library.thinkquest.org/10502/othstud.htm>
- ✿ <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~sflores/othelloSQs.html>

- ✿ <http://www.hf.ntnu.no/engelsk/shakespeare/othque.htm>

King Lear:

- ✿ <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~bgriffin/KingLear/KingLear.htm>
- ✿ <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/lear/study.html>
- ✿ <http://www.cas.buffalo.edu/classes/eng/willbern/Shakespeare/plays/Lear/learstud.htm>
- ✿ http://shakespeare.about.com/od/studentresources/a/learguide_4.htm
- ✿ http://wiki.english.ucsb.edu/index.php/Discussion_Questions_for_King_Lear

ALL THE WORLD'S A GRAVE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS / TOPICS

Act 1:

- ✿ What is Hamlet's attitude towards war?
- ✿ What is Iago's attitude towards war?
- ✿ What role do the two men see for themselves, in war?
- ✿ What is Juliet's attraction for Hamlet?
- ✿ What kind of man is Romeo?
- ✿ What is the significance of Iago's soliloquy (a sonnet) at the end of Act 1?

Act 2:

- ✿ What does the Queen want? What are her resentments?
- ✿ What is your impression of Macbeth? Is he a coward? Is he brave? Are his reservations sincere?
- ✿ Are Macbeth and the Queen in love?
- ✿ Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – is there an intimation that they're served the king as more than messengers? How do they react to the goings on?
- ✿ How does Macbeth excuse his murder of the guards?

Act 3:

- ✿ Why does Iago hate the prince? Is there a deeper reason?
- ✿ What is Iago's attitude towards his duty?
- ✿ How does Iago manipulate King Lear?
- ✿ Is King Lear a "sympathetic" character?
- ✿ What opportunity does Iago see? How does Hamlet's emotional distress about his mother relate to Iago's machinations?

Act 4:

- ✿ How do the characters of Macbeth and Hamlet change when the ghost is assumed to be imaginary? (Shakespeare's was a time of ghost mania.) What do we think of their characters if the ghost is real?
- ✿ What change do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern undergo in their estimation of Hamlet?
- ✿ How do the Queen and Macbeth interact with one another? How does their relationship function?
- ✿ What draws Juliet to Hamlet? Is it an entirely healthy attraction?
- ✿ How are the witches presented? Do you imagine them as old hags? or something else?

Act 5:

- ✿ Is Romeo outflanked by Iago? Could it be true that Iago would have made a better general?
- ✿ Does Hamlet's jealousy bring out the worst in everyone? What sides of the characters do we see, just before the murders of Juliet and Romeo?
- ✿ What does it say about Hamlet, that he chooses to have Romeo carry out the killing?
- ✿ How does Macbeth react to the death of his wife? What does it say about him?
- ✿ How do Guildenstern and Rosencrantz react to the news that they've been betrayed? Why are they so wounded by the news?
- ✿ What is the emotional conflict at the heart of Lear's "madness"?