



Boston University Study Abroad
London

Boston University Study Abroad London
Seminar in Shakespeare Studies – Text, Stage and Screen
CAS EN 368 (*Elective B*)
Spring 2018

Instructor Information

Name	Dr Varsha Panjwani
Day and Time	Monday, 1:15-5:15pm [see course chronology for changes]
Location	Churchill Room, Sorbonne, 41 Cromwell Rd. SW7 2DH
Email	
Twitter	
Office hours	Please email for an appointment

Course Objectives

By the end of this elective, you will be able to:

- critically analyse the verbal, generic, structural, and dramatic qualities of Shakespeare's plays
- relate Shakespeare's plays to the historical, cultural, social, literary, and creative contexts in which they were produced
- demonstrate an intimate understanding of the interpretive choices involved in editing and performing Shakespeare's plays
- participate in some of the dominant debates informing the study of Shakespearean drama
- put into practice a number of transferable skills such as close reading, editing, reviewing, presentation, researching, and critical writing
- exhibit an enhanced understanding of Shakespeare's place in British and World literature and culture

Course Overview

This course has a two-pronged focus; on the one hand, it is an opportunity to undertake a detailed study of Shakespeare's verbal and theatrical languages, and on the other hand, it equips you to investigate Renaissance London's importance in shaping Shakespeare's plays and Shakespeare's importance in shaping some of the fiercest debates about agency and government, family, and national identity in London and the world today. The two concerns are tightly interlaced and demonstrate how Shakespeare continues to occupy a dominant status in English literature and culture today.

Course Methodology

Course content is delivered through close reading, discussion, lectures, seminars, workshops, and field trips. Each of these activities is mutually enhancing.

Course Assessment

Quizzes (20%)

You are given a series of quizzes throughout the term. Further guidance is provided prior to the quizzes. These quizzes are designed to test your familiarity with the text being studied.

Portfolio (60%)

See separate Portfolio brief

Attendance & Participation (20%)

Marks are awarded for punctuality, attendance, robust participation in seminars including completing preparatory reading and research tasks, and meeting deadlines.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: <http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

** Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Important note for students on the Internship Programme:

The rules governing Internship Programme students' UK visas are strict and require, as a condition of the student's presence in the United Kingdom, that the student participates fully in all classes and in the placement. If a student does not attend classes or his/her placement as required the student will be considered to be in breach of the visa and can be deported. As the sponsor of our students' visas, Boston University has the legal obligation to ensure that each student complies with visa requirements.

For that reason Boston University London Programmes requires full attendance in classes and placements. Any student who does not comply with this policy may be sent home from the program at the discretion of the programme directors, and will result in a forfeit of credit and program costs for part or all of the semester.

Classes

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, seminar, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness for more than one day. In this situation students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor's note as soon as possible). The Authorised Absence Approval Request Form is available from: <http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester/>

Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness (first day of sickness): If a student is too ill to attend class, the student must phone the BU London Student Affairs Office (who will in turn contact the student's lecturer).
- Illness (multiple days): If a student is missing more than one class day due to illness, the student must call into to the BU London Student Affairs Office each day the student is ill. Students must also provide the Student Affairs office with a completed Authorised Absence Approval Form and a sick note from a local doctor excusing their absence from class.
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

Unauthorised Absence:

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a 4% grade penalty to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Religious Holidays

Boston University's Office of the University Registrar states:

'The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.'

Special Accommodations

Each student will need to contact the Office of Disability Services to request accommodations for the semester they are abroad. Students are advised by BU- ODS not to expect the same accommodations as they receive on campus.

BU London can only uphold special accommodations if we have received the appropriate documentation from the BU-ODS. We cannot accept letters from other universities/centres.

All disabilities need to be known to the ODS in Boston if they are to be used as a reason for requiring a change in conditions, i.e. reduced internship hours or special accommodations for the internship schedule.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Associate Director for Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Required Readings

It is essential that you read and reflect upon the relevant reading *before* each class. Although any modern edition of the plays is fine, the ones in brackets are particularly useful.

- *Macbeth* (Sourcebooks Shakespeare edition which comes with a CD)
- *Hamlet* (ed. by Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor, Arden Shakespeare)
- *Romeo and Juliet* (ed. by Rene Weis, Arden Shakespeare)

Useful Journals

Shakespeare Survey

Shakespeare

Multicultural Shakespeare

Course Chronology

Session 1 [26 February] Setting the Scene

Essential Reading: Several Texts [copies will be supplied]

Further Reading:

- Dickson, Andrew, and Rough Guides. *The Rough Guide to Shakespeare*. Penguin, 2009.
- Sprague, Arthur Colby, and John Courtenay Trewin. *Shakespeare's Plays Today: Some Customs and Conventions of the Stage*. Sidgwick & Jackson, 1970.

***Session 2 [5 March] Globe and the City**

1:15-06:15 Research Trip Shakespeare's Globe and a Walking Lecture. We will concentrate on the material conditions of production in Shakespeare's time. Through a tour of Shakespeare's Globe, we will be able to appreciate the physical conditions of performance. This will allow us to discuss how Shakespeare bore the open stage, the shifting and restless audience, and the resources of the theatre in mind while writing his plays. The walking lecture accompanying this will further map how the surroundings of the theatre inspired Shakespeare's plays.

Further Reading:

- Carson, Christie, and Farah Karim-Cooper, eds. *Shakespeare's Globe: A Theatrical Experiment*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Pollard, Tanya, ed. *Shakespeare's Theater: A Sourcebook*. John Wiley & Sons, 2008.

Session 3 [12 March] *Hamlet* without *Hamlet*

Essential Reading: *Hamlet*

Further Reading:

- Peterson, Kaara. "Framing Ophelia: representation and the pictorial tradition." *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* (1998): 1-24.
- Marcus, Leah. *Unediting the Renaissance: Shakespeare, Marlowe and Milton*. Routledge, 2002.

Assessment Deadline: *Hamlet* Quiz

*** Session 4 [13 March] TUESDAY Evening Field Trip *Hamlet* @Hackney Empire**

Session 5 [19 March] Textual Culture and *Hamlet*'s Soliloquies

Essential Reading: *Hamlet*

Further Reading:

- Murphy, Andrew, ed. *A Concise Companion to Shakespeare and the Text*. John Wiley & Sons, 2010.
- Escolme, Bridget. *Talking to the Audience: Shakespeare, Performance, Self*. Routledge, 2004.

Session 6 [26 March] Global Shakespeare

Essential Reading: *Romeo and Juliet*

Further Reading:

- Massai, Sonia, ed. *World-wide Shakespeares: Local Appropriations in Film and Performance*. Routledge, 2007.
- Edmondson, Paul, Paul Prescott, and Erin Sullivan, eds. *A Year of Shakespeare: Re-living the World Shakespeare Festival*. A&C Black, 2013.

Assessment Deadline: *Romeo and Juliet* Quiz

[2 April] No Seminar – Easter Monday

Session 7 [9 April] Representing the Uncanny

Essential Reading: *Macbeth*

Further Reading:

- Rosenberg, Marvin. *The Masks of Macbeth*. University of California Press, 1978.
- Bate, Jonathan, and Dora Thornton. *Shakespeare: Staging the World*. British Museum Press, 2012.

Assessment Deadline: *Macbeth* Quiz

* **Session 8 [11 April] WEDNESDAY** Live Screening: *Macbeth* @RSC

* **Session 9 [16 April] 01:15-06:15** Individual Portfolio Appointments

***Session 10 [23 April] *01:15-06:15** Why Shakespeare Matters? Revision, Reflection, and Future Directions in Shakespeare Studies

Essential Reading: Several Texts [copies will be supplied]

Further Reading:

- Hulbert, Jennifer, Kevin J. Wetmore Jr, and Robert York. *Shakespeare and Youth Culture*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
- Delia Jarrett-Macauley ed., *The Diverse Bard - Shakespeare, Race and Performance in Contemporary Britain*. Routledge, 2016.

CONTINGENCY CLASS DATE [25 April]

FINAL PROJECT SUBMISSION [26 April]

PLEASE NOTE: Schedules and topics are subject to change, in which case announcements will be made in class as appropriate.