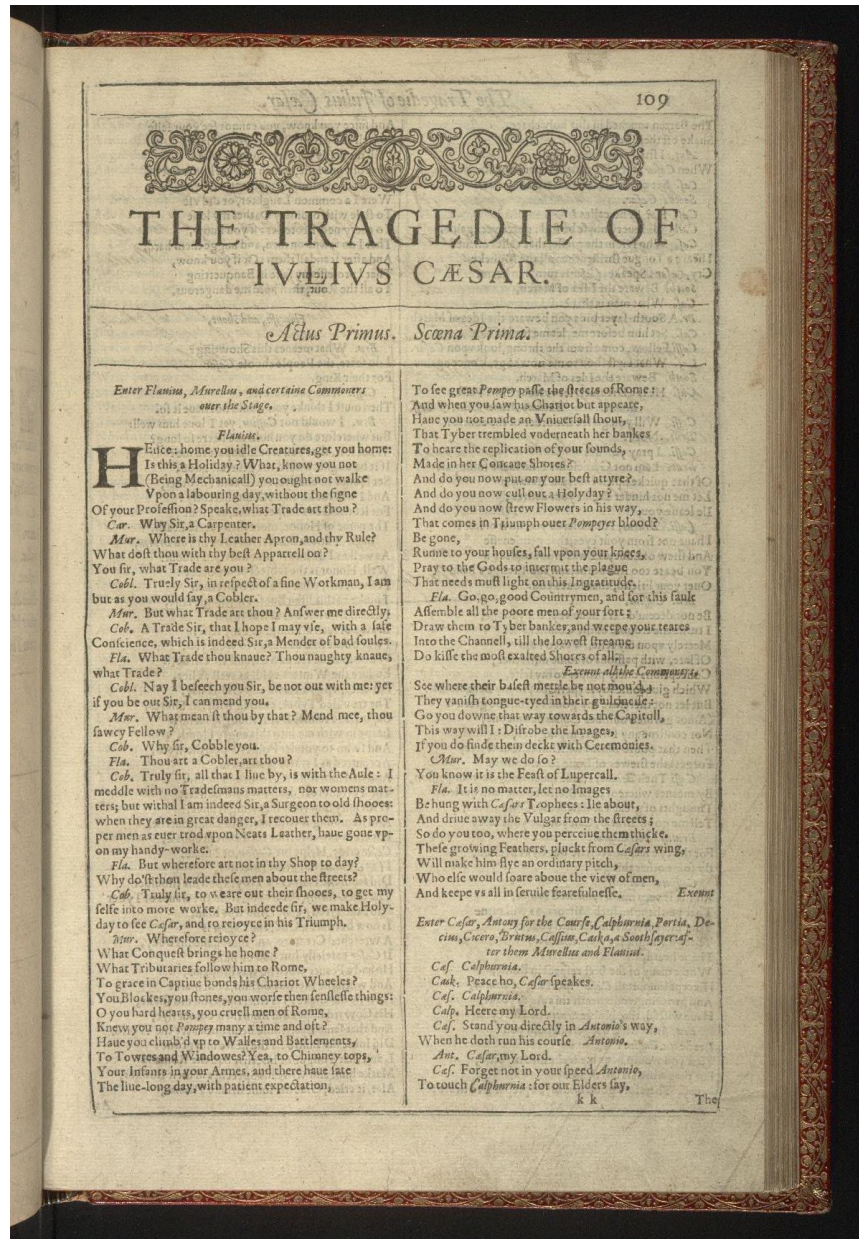


HCOL 186N:
Shakespeare and the Classical Tradition
 Fall 2017 ~ MWF 12:00–12:50 PM ~ U Heights North 2&3 034F
 Professor Angeline Chiu



The text of *Julius Caesar* in the First Folio of 1623
 Courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Instructor Information:

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- Office: 481 Main Street #301 (top floor)
- Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 PM and preferably by appointment
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Grading:

- 10% Writing project 1 (creative adaptation)
- 10% Writing project 2 (analytical research)
- 10% Performance project (declamation)
- 20% Class participation
- 25% Reading journal portfolio
- 25% Final exam

Texts For The Class:**~Plays: Required Texts at UVM Bookstore (all Folger Shakespeare Library editions):**

- *Antony and Cleopatra*
- *The Comedy of Errors*
- *Hamlet*
- *Julius Caesar*
- *Macbeth*
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*
- *Twelfth Night*

~Historical Background: Required Texts at UVM Bookstore

- *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599* by James Shapiro (2006)
- *Shakespeare's Restless World: Portrait of an Era in Twenty Objects* by Neil MacGregor (2014)

~Required Texts In PDF Or Online:

- Packet on Shakespeare's historical context
- Selections from Plutarch's *Parallel Lives*
- Transcription and paleography materials
- *Amphitruo, Menaechmi, and Miles Gloriosus* by Plautus
- Seneca, *Thyestes*
- Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
- Selections from Livy's *History of Rome*
- Selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*
- Shakespeare, *Venus and Adonis*
- All source materials for the creative adaptation writing project
- Others TBD as the semester progresses

~Films:

In a perfect world, we would attend multiple live stage productions of each play that we study. Since that is not possible, film versions will have to do. Remember: Shakespeare is meant to be seen and heard, not read on a page. Note too that different productions make different creative choices.

- *Hamlet* (1996); Kenneth Branagh, Kate Winslet, Derek Jacobi, et al.
- *Hamlet* (2010); David Tennant, Patrick Stewart, et al.
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (1993); Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, et al.
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (2012); Alexis Denisof, Amy Acker, et al.
- *Macbeth* (2010); Patrick Stewart, Kate Fleetwood, et al.
- *Throne of Blood* (1957); Toshiro Mifune, Isuzu Yamada, et al.

Goals and Objectives:

Welcome! This semester we have several goals:

- Read and appreciate selected works of William Shakespeare in a survey seminar format.
- Learn about Shakespeare's world and context, Elizabethan and Jacobean England.
- Keep in mind that Shakespeare's works were meant to be performed. Consider gesture, voice, body language, movement, music, art direction, hair, wardrobe, makeup, interaction, and other aspects of performance.
- Examine the general role of the classical tradition (the cultural inheritance from ancient Greece and Rome) in Shakespeare's day and our own.
- Take a closer look at several major ancient influences on Shakespeare: Plutarch, Plautus, Seneca, Livy, and Ovid in their various fields of literature.
- Understand better the history of English via the usage and lexicon of Shakespeare's day.
- Sharpen the skill of close active reading and analysis.
- Hone the practice of thinking and writing from the first brainstorm to the final draft in both creative and research arenas.
- Get out of your chairs on occasion and so learn "outside the box."
- Spark your creativity along the way. Grapple with the intricacies of source and adaptation.
- Engage in thoughtful complex discussion, clear thinking, and lucid communication both verbal and written. These are valuable life and work skills in general.
- Consider our current inheritance from and interactions with the Bard.
- Above all: Enjoy Shakespeare in various contexts both analytical/academic and creative.

Classroom Policies:

I expect every student to behave in a manner that is professional, responsible, courteous, and appropriate to a collegiate setting. Generally, use common sense. Furthermore, you are Honors College students held to a high standard. Particular points of policy include:

- Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences count against your grade and will harm you in the long run. You will NOT be allowed to make up any work missed due to an unexcused absence, nor will I make concessions for catching up.
- For excused absences: If you must be absent for University-approved reasons, it is your responsibility to let me know beforehand and to make up the missed work.

- Be punctual. If you arrive after I close the door, you are tardy. Repeated tardiness will count against your participation grade. 3 tardies will count as 1 unexcused absence.
- Once I start the lecture/discussion, class has started, and I expect all conversations to stop.
- Treat everyone with courtesy. No profanity or obscenity.
- Do not mill around the room or leave for any reason once class has started. Go to the bathroom before or after class, but not during.
- Do not interrupt your instructor or classmates when they are speaking.
- No electronics are allowed in class. This includes laptops and tablets. Silence your phones!
- Plagiarism in any way is cheating. Copying and pasting passages from Internet sites counts as plagiarism. Quoting without attributions is also plagiarism. All forms of cheating will be treated in accordance with UVM's policies on academic integrity:
~ <https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/acadintegrity.pdf>
- All assignments must be in hard copy with black ink in 12-point standard font. I will not accept anything that is handwritten.
- I do not accept late work. I also do not accept excuses such as "I left my paper in my room. Can I bring it later?" or "My printer ran out of ink. Can I email you my paper?" Your written assignments are due in hard copy in class on the specified due date.
- All class-related emails will be sent to your UVM email addresses.
- Email policy: Treat emails as formal business letters. No Internet spellings, abbreviations, emoticons, or emoji. Begin with "Dear Dr. (or Professor) Chiu" and end with "Sincerely, Your Name." In the subject line, put the course prefix, number, and topic (example: "HCOL 186N: Question about Hamlet assignment"). This is sound policy for all your classes.
- Remember: YOU are responsible for your performance and success, not I.
- Do not assume you know a play if you have read it before.
- Standard college workload is 3 hours minimum outside class for every 1 hour in class.
- No food in class! Beverages are permissible. If you spill, however, you clean it up.
- Come ready to learn, ask questions, and engage! This class is interactive. Leave your bashfulness at the door.

Study Notes:

- FOCUS. Your job as a scholar is first to understand, not to judge. Your job is not "picking sides" in the story that you are reading. Your job is not finding a character to identify with or choosing one to root for or against. Your job *is* to try to see how events, characters, themes, etc. operate in the narrative as a whole. You will probably meet some characters that you personally like more than others. This is fine, but you must not allow your preferences to exclude the others from your study and scrutiny. Try not to read primarily with your own emotions and preferences. Avoid saying "I like X" or "I don't like Y" about plays that we discuss. Opinion is not the same thing as analysis. Embrace complexity, ambiguity, contradiction, and paradox: Shakespeare's plays, his tragedies especially, embrace complication (moral/ethical, social, human, etc.), choices, and their consequences. Do not seek simple, glib answers for thorny questions. Reductionism, wanting to put everything into neat little boxes, stereotyping, and moral absolutism all defeat the purpose.
- As the saying goes, "*The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there.*" Do not expect London, England of 1599 to be like Burlington, Vermont of 2017. You must try to meet the

Elizabethans on their own terms as they are, not judge them by your standards for not being like you or behaving as you think they should. Like anthropologists, you are attempting to understand a different culture from a different time and place. Do not automatically label, make fun of, or dismiss things that are unfamiliar to you. Undoubtedly if the Elizabethans met you, they would also think that some of the things that you do and think are odd.

- This class is not about you. It is not about me. It is about Shakespeare. Think along these lines, and you will find the idea quite liberating. Your own personal, emotional, subjective likes, dislikes, preconceptions, assumptions, expectations, preferences, whims, and biases at any given moment should not interfere with your ability to engage the course material intellectually and objectively. Elizabethan theatre will present you with all kinds of situations, characters, narratives, and ideas. Some of these will be assuredly challenging. A fundamental part of learning is exploring new and different ideas and grappling with them meaningfully.
- A caveat: The fact that a character in a play says something does NOT automatically mean that the author personally believes that statement. Do not make this common error. Consider: I personally love chocolate, but I can easily write a play in which a character says that chocolate is terrible and should be outlawed. Art and artist are separate things.
- Another note: Plays are works of fiction and creative imagination. Do not assume that what you read or see on stage is a perfect or accurate reflection of actual Elizabethan or Jacobean England. The relation between “real life” and “work of art” is far more complex.
- Try forming study groups and reading groups. Try reading the plays out loud.
- In class some things will come to you more easily than others. This is normal. Not everyone learns everything at the same rate. The important thing is to keep working. If you are not naturally “good” at something, you can nevertheless by hard work and practice make yourself better at it. Research tells us that intelligence is not static: you can literally make yourself smarter, but it is up to you.
- Free advice: Back up your data often somewhere other than your personal computer in case of hard drive failure. At least use a flash drive. Computer crashes, though terrible, are not a UVM-approved reason to ask for extensions on assignments or exams. Protect your data!
- PLAN AHEAD and manage your time effectively. This is true especially for film viewing assignments. They always take longer than you think they will.

Class Schedule

Subject to change at instructor's discretion.

BB = Blackboard

Week 1	Monday, Aug. 28 <i>First Day of Class</i> Introduction	Wednesday, Aug. 30 Historical Context: Shakespeare's world Due: Shapiro or MacGregor	Friday, Sept. 1 <i>Last Day to Add Without Instructor Permission</i> Context, continued Shapiro-MacGregor presentations
Week 2	Monday, Sept. 4 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i>	Wednesday, Sept. 6 Context, continued Due: Transcription, OP, and Biography Assignments (BB)	Friday, Sept. 8 Second Folio with Professor Jeff Marshall *Meet in Special Collections in Bailey/Howe Library*
Week 3	Monday, Sept. 11 <i>Add/Drop Deadline</i> <i>Julius Caesar</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 1 The first reading log is due. Assume one is due for every reading or viewing assignment henceforth unless noted otherwise. Guidelines are on BB.	Wednesday, Sept. 13 <i>Julius Caesar</i> Act 3 Sc. 2-Act 5 Sc. 5	Friday, Sept. 15 Plutarch and ancient biography: excerpts from the <i>Lives of Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Brutus</i> (BB)
Week 4	Monday, Sept. 18 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 3	Wednesday, Sept. 20 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> Act 3 Sc. 4-Act 5 Sc. 2	Friday, Sept. 22 Plutarch, excerpt of the <i>Life of Mark Antony</i> (BB)
Week 5	Monday, Sept. 25 <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (all)	Wednesday, Sept. 27 Workshop I with John Nagle of the Vermont Shakespeare Festival	Friday, Sept. 29 Workshop II with John Nagle of the Vermont Shakespeare Festival
Week 6	Monday, Oct. 2 Plautus and Roman comedy: <i>Menaechmi</i> & <i>Amphitruo</i> (BB) Intro to adaptation project.	Wednesday, Oct. 4 <i>Twelfth Night</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 1	Friday, Oct. 6 <i>Twelfth Night</i> Act 3 Sc. 2-Act 5 Sc. 1 Adaptation topics due.

Week 7	Monday, Oct. 9 <i>Fall Recess</i>	Wednesday, Oct. 11 Work on adaptations.	Friday, Oct. 13 Work on adaptations.
Week 8	Monday, Oct. 16 Adaptations due.	Wednesday, Oct. 18 <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 1	Friday, Oct. 20 <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> Act 3 Sc. 2-Act 5 Sc. 4 Also due: Plautus, <i>Miles Gloriosus</i> (BB).
Week 9	Monday, Oct. 23 <i>Much Ado</i> films due (Branagh and Whedon). DVDs are on reserve in Media Resources in Bailey/Howe Library.	Wednesday, Oct. 25 Seneca and Elizabethan revenge tragedy: <i>Thyestes</i> and Thomas Kyd's <i>Spanish Tragedy</i> (BB)	Friday, Oct. 27 <i>Hamlet</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 1
Week 10	Monday, Oct. 30 <i>Last Day to Withdraw</i> <i>Hamlet</i> Act 3 Sc. 2-Act 5 Sc. 2 Introduce research assignment.	Wednesday, Nov. 1 Chiu on lecture tour: Work on <i>Hamlet</i> assignment for Nov. 6	Friday, Nov. 3 Chiu on lecture tour: Work on <i>Hamlet</i> assignment for Nov. 6
Week 11	Monday, Nov. 6 <i>Hamlet</i> films due (Branagh and Tennant). DVDs are on reserve in Media Resources in Bailey/Howe Library. Also due: <i>Hamlet: Globe to Globe</i> Note: Log due for the films but not for the book.	Wednesday, Nov. 8 <i>Macbeth</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 2	Friday, Nov. 10 <i>Macbeth</i> Act 3 Sc. 3 -Act 5 Sc. 9 Choose research topic.
Week 12	Monday, Nov. 13 Livy, Roman history, and <i>Macbeth</i> : 2 documents (BB) Introduce declamation assignment.	Wednesday, Nov. 15 <i>Macbeth</i> films due (Stewart and Kurosawa). DVDs are on reserve in Media Resources in Bailey/Howe Library.	Friday, Nov. 17 Ovid and mythology: selections from <i>Metamorphoses</i> (BB) and Shakespeare's epyllion <i>Venus and Adonis</i> (BB or in optional book) Choose declamation text.

Thanksgiving	Monday, Nov. 20	Wednesday, Nov. 22	Friday, Nov. 24
Week 13	Monday, Nov. 27 <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Act 1-Act 3 Sc. 1.	Wednesday, Nov. 29 <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Act 3 Sc. 2-Act 5 Sc. 1.	Friday, Dec. 1 Work on declamations. Reading log portfolios due.
Week 14	Monday, Dec. 4 Work on declamations.	Wednesday, Dec. 6 Declamations	Friday, Dec. 8 <i>Last Day of Class</i> Declamations Closing discussion Research assignment due by 4 PM in my office.
Exams	Monday, Dec. 11 Final Exam 10:30 AM – 1:15 PM	Wednesday, Dec. 13	Friday, Dec. 15

Note: The schedule for all Fall 2017 final exams is available here:
https://giraffe.uvm.edu/~rgweb/batch/final_exams_fall.html

