

**Carleton University
Winter 2014
ENGL 4304B: Renaissance Drama**

Friday 08:35-11:25 AM

Location: 311 Southam

Prerequisite: fourth-year standing in Honours English or permission of the Department

Professor Micheline White

Office: 2A45 Paterson Hall

Phone: 520-2600 ext. 1356

Email: micheline.white@carleton.ca

For urgent messages only. I do not read or respond to emails between Friday 4:30 PM and Monday 9:00 AM.

Office Hours: Thursday 11:30-1:00

Topic: Renaissance Drama on the Screen

In this course we will engage in a close examination of four major dramatic works by William Shakespeare and we will examine how those works have been adapted into contemporary films.

Required Texts: The five books are available at **ALL BOOKS at 327 Rideau Street** (between King Edward and Nelson. On the #7 bus-route, just beside the Bytown Cinema). M-Sat Open 10:00 AM-9:00 PM. Sunday 12:00-6:00. (613) 789-9544. Some movies are on reserve at the library; others are available through iTunes.

Shakespeare, *Othello* (Signet Classic); movie directed by Oliver Parker with Laurence Fishburne (1998; available on reserve and on iTunes)

Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* directed by Ralph Fiennes (2012; available on iTunes)

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Signet Classic); movie by Julie Taymor (2011; on iTunes)

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Signet Classic); movies directed by Franco Zeffirelli (with M. Gibson, 1990, on reserve) and Kenneth Branagh (1996; on reserve and on iTunes)

Requirements

3 oral seminars presentations (20 minutes each) 10% each = 30%

2 seminar papers based on the oral presentations (2500 words each) 20 % each = 60%

Participation 10%

Expectations

I am assuming that most of you have had some exposure to Shakespeare's plays but I do not expect you to be familiar with the four particular plays we will study. In the weeks that follow, you are encouraged to read the plays slowly, to ask a lot of questions, and to take the initiative in seeking ways to answer those questions. I have provided a list of required secondary sources for each play and movie. I expect that you will have watched the movies very carefully and I expect you to come to seminar with **lots to say**.

1. Seminar Presentations

You will give **three** oral seminar presentations in this course. I will distribute some general ideas, but you are strongly encouraged to choose your own topic. For all oral seminars you will be expected to demonstrate some familiarity with secondary criticism.

Your presentations will only last for **20 minutes** so you must be ruthlessly concise and efficient in making your argument.

You are free to bring laptops with powerpoints and/or video clips. You will need to bring or borrow an adapter if you are using a mac. You are free to distribute a handout but it should be minimal. And you are NOT required to have a handout.

The main function of a seminar is to exercise your ability to argue a case orally or, if you are a listener, to contribute positively to an intellectual conversation. For this reason, presenters **MUST NOT** read from a written text.

In grading the oral presentations, I will consider the quality of the content and the oral delivery.

2. Seminar Papers/Projects

You will also submit a written and expanded version (2500 words) of **TWO** of your seminar presentations a week after the oral presentation. In evaluating the written paper, I will look for a clear argument about the primary text, familiarity with secondary criticism, and elegant prose.

Students will also be allowed to propose digital projects in lieu of written papers if they so desire. If you wish to do this topic, please consult with me beforehand.

3. Participation

You are required to participate actively in every session. You must email me if you are going to be absent. Students who do not participate will not receive a passing grade for the participation portion of the grade (10%)

Course Schedule (subject to revision)

Jan 10: Introduction to the course

Jan 17: *Othello* and a discussion of the movie (Parker) and of the article by Judith Buchanan.

Jan 24: *Othello* (Parker)

Jan 31: *Othello* and *Coriolanus*. A discussion of the assigned articles on *Coriolanus*.

Feb 7: *Coriolanus* (Fiennes)

Feb 14: *Coriolanus* (Fiennes); *Tempest*, if you like.

Feb 21: break

Feb 28: *Tempest* (Taymor) and a discussion of the articles.

March 7: *Tempest* (Taymor)

March 14: *Hamlet* and a discussion of Zeffirelli and the articles.

March 21: *Hamlet* (Zeffirelli and Branagh)

March 28: class cancelled

April 4: *Hamlet* (Branagh)