

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2026**  
**ENGL 3307A: Shakespeare Studies**

**Prerequisite: third-year standing or permission of the Department**

**Professor Micheline White**  
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I do not read or respond to emails between Friday 4:30 PM and Monday 9:00 AM.

**Shakespeare in Hollywood: How Film Directors Adapt Shakespeare for the Big Screen**

**\*\*\* This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.  
 A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. \*\*\***

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes:**

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

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

- describe and analyze the key factors at play in filmic adaptations of Shakespeare plays: camera angles, script production, setting, casting, music, and costuming.
- develop an ability to read, understand, and interpret Shakespearean language and key elements of his plays.
- develop a short oral presentation that offers an original argument and provide compelling evidence to back it up.
- write an abstract that summarizes an argument in 300 words.
- produce in-class written work that offers a clear thesis and provides compelling evidence to back it up.
- provide productive feedback to your peers and engage in respectful academic discussion.

**Required Texts:**

Plays: they are at the CU bookstore. **You MUST have these hard copies** because laptops are not allowed during lecture or presentations. You will be uploading photos of your annotations to BS. Cost – approximately \$60.00.

Shakespeare, *Othello*. Edited by Jessica Slights. Broadview Press, 2017.

Shakespeare, *Much Ado about Nothing*. Edited by Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine. Folger Press, 2004.

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*. Edited by David Bevington. Broadview Press, 2018.

## Films:

Shakespeare, *Othello*; directed by Oliver Parker (1998; FREE. Available via Ares on BS)

Shakespeare, *Much Ado about Nothing*, directed by Joss Whedon (2012; available via Ares on BS with a few ads. You can buy it on itunes if you don't want the ads).

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*; with David Tennant directed by Gregory Doran (2009; available via Ares)

**Assignments and Evaluations based on learning outcomes:** (still subject to revision)

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Oral presentation        | 15%            |
| Abstract of presentation | 5%             |
| 2 in-class tests         | 40% (20% each) |
| Participation            | 10%            |
| 5 quizzes                | 10%            |
| 1 final exam format TBD  | 20%            |