

## SYLLABUS

Professor Grant Williams

Room 1905, Dunton Tower

English Department, Carleton University Winter 2022

---

# ENGL 5303F/ENGL 4301C: Shakespeare's Sonnets

## Image, Memory, and Fantasy

---

|                     |                        |              |                            |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Professor</b>    | Grant Williams         | <b>Email</b> | grant_williams@carleton.ca |
| <b>Office Hours</b> | By appointment on Zoom | <b>Date</b>  | Mondays                    |
| <b>Room</b>         | Southam Hall 315       | <b>Time</b>  | 2:35-5:25 PM               |

**Format:** this is an "In-Person" course (see below)

## Type of Online Learning

ENGL 5303F/ENGL 4301A is "In-Person. Not Suitable for Online Students." This means that it is an in-person section only; students who are studying exclusively online should not register.

## Course Description

This course is devoted to the study of one of the most famous texts in all of English literature—a sonnet sequence that in many ways needs no introduction. What sets this course apart from other Shakespeare courses is that it has been designed with two particular objectives in mind—the first being methodological and the second being conceptual and thematic.

First, it will introduce students to research materials and research activities integral for studying Shakespeare's poetry but also transferable to other fields in English literature and the humanities disciplines. Because Shakespeare's corpus has been edited, annotated, commented upon, and contextualized for centuries, the vast amount of scholarly tools, reference works, and critical materials devoted to it and its period allows students the opportunity to foster and sharpen their research skills at the graduate level. Thanks to our cyber age, many exciting digital resources will also help us to explore the *Sonnets*, enabling us to drill down into their historical, political, and ethical assumptions and back-stories. Thus the course will demystify graduate-level research methods and strive to assist students in developing and enhancing their own skills of critical inquiry and investigation.

The course's second objective will be to study the ways in which Shakespeare's sonnets contribute to and are informed by the psychological construction of the image during the early modern period. Mental images were sites of interior struggle, guilt, and sin that could involve all the cognitive faculties, particularly the memory and its subordinate, the imagination. This course will accordingly tease out the implications that the Shakespearean image of the lover and the beloved has for interiority and the related issues of identity, desire, fantasizing, and recollection. As such the course's thematic objective will introduce students to the vibrant and growing field of Renaissance memory studies as well as to questions relevant to cognitive philosophy and cultural studies.

## Brightspace

Please note that this course is managed with Carleton's Learning Management System—Brightspace. It uses this system for posting news, communicating, assigning course work, and grading, so please familiarize yourself with it right away.

## Textbooks

From week to week, readings will come from many sources. Please consult Brightspace for the list of texts that you are accountable for each week. There I will post a downloadable pdf with all the instructions. Some of the secondary readings, particularly critical and theoretical ones, will be available through ARES, easily accessed on Brightspace. Finally, I will place some important print sources on reserve in the library. Our primary texts are the following editions, which you must purchase. Please note the specific editions.

- 1) *The Sonnets and a Lover's Complaint*. Ed. John Kerrigan. Reprinted 2010. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1986.
- 2) *Shakespeare's Sonnets*. Ed. Katherine Duncan-Jones. Reprinted 2010. London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 1997.

The following two books will be on reserve, but you may want to buy them:

- 1) *Shakespeare's Sonnets*. Ed. Stephen Booth. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1977.
- 2) Vendler, Helen. *The Art of Shakespeare's Sonnets*. New Haven and London: Harvard University Press, 1997.

## Topics Schedule

|                                       |                                          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 10: Introduction                 | Feb. 28: Editing the Text                |
| Jan. 17: Major Controversies          | March 7: Close Reading Day II            |
| Jan. 24: Sonnet Form and Courtly Love | March 14: Forms and Practices of Memory  |
| Jan. 31: Close Reading Day I          | March 21: Psychology and Image I         |
| Feb. 7: Rhetoric and Figures          | March 28: Digital Resources and Research |
| Feb. 14: Materiality of the Text      | April 4: Psychology and Image II         |
| Feb. 21: READING WEEK                 | April 11: Research Presentation Day      |

## Assessment Breakdown

| ASSIGNMENTS                                           | DATE DUE | % OF MARK |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Close reading of a sonnet (500-600 words)          | Jan. 31  | 15        |
| 2. Close reading of a sonnet (500-600 words)          | March 7  | 15        |
| 3. Bibliographic Assignment and Research Presentation | April 11 | 10        |

|                                 |          |    |
|---------------------------------|----------|----|
| 4. Attendance and Participation |          | 10 |
| 5. Research Paper               | April 28 | 50 |

---

## Final Standing in Course

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## Assignments

1. Participation: You are allowed to miss one seminar—no questions asked. *It is your responsibility to save this grace class for emergencies.* Afterwards, your grade will be reduced by 30% for each class missed.
2. Close reading of a sonnet: both short essays will be presented in seminar and then, according to class comments, will be revised and submitted through Brightspace.
3. Bibliographic Assignment and Research Presentation: in the second half of the term, you will present your main research questions to the class and then submit the presentation along with an annotated bibliography. Your annotated bibliography must be incorporated into your essay.
4. Research Paper: You will commit to a topic for your research paper in the second week of classes. If you cannot settle on one at that time, I will choose one for you. (No topic hopping!) This assignment will be submitted through Brightspace.

## Late Assignment Policy

**Late assignments will not be accepted.** The only exception will be granted to students who experience serious illness or bereavement during the duration of the course; in each case, official documentation is required. For medical conditions, please email me a signed Doctor's certificate, which needs to spell out how long the illness lasted or is expected to last. Where the death of a close relative is concerned, please email me an obituary notice in which your name appears, establishing your kinship. If you wish, you may, instead, email me a copy of the Death Certificate. Once I have the documentation, you will receive a new submission-deadline that cannot be missed.

## Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;

- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

## Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

## Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

### Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>