ENGL 3424 Shakespeare: ‘to hold the mirror up to nature’

This course focusses upon a selection of Shakespeare plays which we will look at in their own historical context, and in modern performance. We will think about how these plays intervene in their own context and deploy contemporary sources and anxieties, in particular examining the use of history in the final three plays of the semester. We will also think about how these plays have been reimagined and reappropriated for modern audiences, and particularly consider how we deal with the problematic nature of *Merchant* and *Henry V*.

Each week will involve a two hour lecture/class in which you will be expected to participate in discussion. Please ensure you have read the play and at least three of the week’s set critical readings.

Every two weeks you will have a tutorial focussing on one play, for which you must prepare a presentation of some kind. This presentation should draw upon the readings suggested and the play itself.

**Grading**

Your grade for the term will aggregate your participation in lectures and tutorials, two courseworks, and an end of term examination. Fifty per cent will come from your participation and courseworks, with your examination making up the remaining half.

**Participation**

You are expected to participate fully in your teaching. Every tutorial presentation will receive a mark. At the end of term, I will assign you a mark for your participation in lectures and tutorials. This will then be combined with your average presentation mark to give your final participation grade, which will count for 10% of your overall grade.

**Coursework 1.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday – Week 7

Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early February.

**Coursework 2.**

2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN Thursday – Week 12

Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early April.

**Examination**

Your examination will be a three hour paper, in which you must answer three essay questions from a selection of twenty. One must be comparative and one must be based on a reading of the play(s) in performance.
Course outline

Week 1
Lecture: Shakespeare in his own time
Performance, 4th February: Hamlet, Sam Wanamaker Theatre

Week 2
Lecture Hamlet, tragedy and religion

Week 3
Lecture Hamlet and textual difference

Week 4
Lecture Much Ado About Nothing and Shakespearean comedy
Tutorial assignment Please prepare a five minute presentation on one of the articles on Hamlet from the set reading. Evaluate the article’s strengths and weaknesses.

Week 5
Lecture Much Ado About Nothing in performance
Performance, 5th March: Merchant of Venice, Sam Wanamaker Theatre

Week 6
Lecture The Merchant of Venice and race
Tutorial assignment Choose a scene from Much Ado. Devise your own performance notes: how would you stage the scene? Why? What effect does your direction have on the scene’s meaning? You will give a five minute presentation on your ‘production’.

Week 7
Lecture The Merchant of Venice as tragicomedy

COURSEWORK 1 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday

Week 8
Lecture History plays
Tutorial assignment You’re going to hold a debate over whether Shylock is a villain or a victim. More information will be given to you in the preceding tutorial.
Performance, 1st April: Henry V, Donmar Warehouse

Week 9
Lecture Henry V and kingship

Week 10
Lecture Henry V, masculinity and nationalism
Tutorial assignment Please watch at least one modern production of Henry V, as well as at least two of the reviews on the reading list and two of the articles. Write a five minute presentation on the question ‘to what purposes has Henry V been put by modern productions?’

Week 11
Lecture The Henry VI tetralogy
Week 12
Lecture Henry VI and the people
Tutorial assignment Please compare 2 Henry VI with its source material (either Holinshed’s Chronicle or Hall’s The Union of the Noble and Illustre Famelies of Lancastre and Yorke), and prepare a five minute presentation on how the play adapts its source materials. How do these changes alter the play’s meaning and message?

COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday

Week 13
Lecture Women in the history plays

Week 14
Lecture Revision
Tutorial assignment Please prepare a five minute presentation answering the question ‘is Shakespeare politically conservative?’
ENGL 3421 16th & 17th century Playwrights

This course focusses on the presentation of power, gender, sexuality and justice in these five early modern tragedies. We will consider the plays in their own historical and performance context, thinking about the way that their original staging affect their meaning. While many of these plays are not often performed today, this course will involve looking at past productions using performance reviews and documentation.

Each week will involve a two hour lecture/class in which you will be expected to participate in discussion. Please ensure you have read the play and at least three of the week’s set critical readings. Every two weeks you will have a tutorial focussing on one play, for which you must prepare a presentation of some kind. This presentation should draw upon the readings suggested and the play itself.

The final two weeks of classes and final tute will be comparative, asking you to draw together the plays we have studied this semester and think thematically about them.

Grading
Your grade for the term will aggregate your participation in lectures and tutorials, two courseworks, and an end of term examination. Fifty per cent will come from your participation and courseworks, with your examination making up the remaining half.

Participation
You are expected to participate fully in your teaching. Every tutorial presentation will receive a mark. At the end of term, I will assign you a mark for your participation in lectures and tutorials. This will then be combined with your average presentation mark to give your final participation grade, which will count for 10% of your overall grade.

Coursework 1.
2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday – Week 7. Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early February.

Coursework 2.
2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday – Week 12. Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early April.

Examination
Your examination will be a three hour paper, in which you must answer three essay questions from a selection of twenty. One must be comparative.
Course outline

Week 1
Lecture Early modern theatre in performance

Week 2
Lecture Tragedy

Week 3
Lecture The Spanish Tragedy and revenge tragedy

Week 4
Lecture Counsel and power
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation examining how 1580s audiences would have felt about Hieronimo in The Spanish Tragedy, considering it in context.

Week 5
Lecture Arden of Faversham and true crime

Week 6
Lecture Arden of Faversham and the household
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation answering the question ‘Why was Arden of Faversham popular with 1590s audiences?’

Week 7
Lecture The court and horror in The Duchess of Malfi
COURSEWORK 1 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday

Week 8
Lecture Caught in a trap: Bosola and the Duchess
Tutorial assignment: Please write a five minute presentation on the question ‘is the ending of The Duchess of Malfi satisfying?’

Week 9
Lecture Spectacle and spectacles in The White Devil

Week 10
Lecture Justice in The White Devil
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation on the question ‘What is The White Devil about?’

Week 11
Lecture ’Tis Pity She’s a Whore, female virtue and incest

Week 12
Lecture Power and justice
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation that answers the question ‘Is ’Tis Pity She’s a Whore a misogynist play?’
COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINE: 4pm, Thursday

Week 13
Lecture Sex and the household
Week 14
Lecture Revision
Tutorial assignment Pick one: Duchess of Malfi, White Devil, 'Tis Pity. Please prepare a five minute presentation on how your chosen play would be affected if staged in a) an indoor theatre b) an outdoor theatre.
ENGL 3410: Modern novels on screen

This course explores uses of a variety of narrative styles in a selection of modern novels, and how these narrative styles are translated and transformed on screen. We will consider, over the course of the semester, what defines ‘modern’ novels, and how different writers approach the task of representing psychological realism and the ‘human condition’. We will think carefully about how modern film adaptations work with and through the conventions and constraints of cinematic form to reproduce and reimagine the psychological effects of these novels. We will, finally, consider how these novels and their adaptations deal with identity – queer identity in *Dracula*, *Cloud Atlas* and *Call Me By Your Name*, and national and ethnic identity in *Sunset Song* and *Cloud Atlas*.

Each week will involve a two hour lecture/class in which you will be expected to participate in discussion. Please ensure you have read the novel and at least three of the week’s set critical readings. Every two weeks you will have a tutorial focusing on one novel, for which you must prepare a presentation of some kind. This presentation should draw upon the readings suggested and the novel itself.

**Grading**
Your grade for the term will aggregate your participation in lectures and tutorials, two courseworks, and an end of term examination. Fifty per cent will come from your participation and courseworks, with your examination making up the remaining half.

**Participation**
You are expected to participate fully in your teaching. Every tutorial presentation will receive a mark. At the end of term, I will assign you a mark for your participation in lectures and tutorials. This will then be combined with your average presentation mark to give your final participation grade, which will count towards your overall grade.

**Coursework 1.**
2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN 4pm Thursday WEEK 7
Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in early February.

**Coursework 2.**
2000 word essay, due NO LATER THAN WEEK 12 Essays must be fully referenced and draw upon secondary literature. You will have a choice of five questions, which will be released in mid-March.

**Examination**
Your examination will be a three hour paper, in which you must answer three essay questions from a selection of twenty. One must be comparative and one must draw upon one of the adaptations we’ve studied.
Course outline

Week 1
Lecture Narrative and film

Week 2
Lecture Dracula

Week 3
Lecture Dracula

Week 4
Lecture The Great Gatsby
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation on one of these themes in Dracula: race, nationalism, sexuality, perversion.

Week 5
Lecture The Great Gatsby

Week 6
Lecture Sunset Song
Tutorial assignment Pick a section of Gatsby. Write a five minute presentation on how successful you think the film was at adapting this part of the novel.

Week 7
Lecture Sunset Song

COURSEWORK 1 DEADLINE: 4PM, Thursday

Week 8
Lecture Atonement
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation answering the question ‘How does Sunset Song present Scottish identity?’

Week 9
Lecture Atonement

Week 10
Lecture Cloud Atlas
Tutorial assignment Please write a five minute presentation comparing the novel and film of Atonement with regard to one of these themes: uncertainty, writing, love.

Week 11
Lecture Cloud Atlas

Week 12
Lecture Call Me By Your Name
Tutorial assignment Please pick one of the storylines in Cloud Atlas (eg. Sonmi-451). Write a five minute presentation on how effectively you think the film tells this storyline.

COURSEWORK 2 DEADLINE: 4PM, THURSDAY

Week 13
Lecture Call Me By Your Name
Week 14
Lecture Revision
Tutorial assignment Pick one sequence from the film of Call Me By Your Name that uses music (eg. ‘Futile Devices’ playing over Elio sitting in the darkened garden). Write a five minute presentation on how this music contributes to the storytelling.