SHAKESPEARE
Tuesday, 9.00am-12.00pm

Instructor Information
Name Dr Varsha Panjwani
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Office hours Monday 2pm-4pm
Other time slots might be available by appointment

Course Overview
This course has a two-pronged focus; on the one hand, it is an opportunity to undertake a
detailed study of Shakespeare’s verbal and theatrical languages, and on the other hand, it
equips you to investigate Renaissance London’s importance in shaping Shakespeare’s plays and
Shakespeare’s importance in shaping some of the fiercest debates about agency and
government, family, and national identity in London and the world today. The two concerns
are tightly interlaced and demonstrate how Shakespeare continues to occupy a dominant status
in English literature and culture today.

Course Objectives
By the end of this elective, you will be able to:

- critically analyse the verbal, generic, structural, and dramatic qualities of Shakespeare’s
  plays
- relate Shakespeare’s plays to the historical, cultural, social, literary, and creative contexts
  in which they were produced
- demonstrate an intimate understanding of the interpretive choices involved in editing
  and performing Shakespeare’s plays
- participate in some of the dominant debates informing the study of Shakespearean
  drama
- put into practice a number of transferable skills such as close reading, editing,
  reviewing, presentation, researching, and critical writing
- exhibit an enhanced understanding of Shakespeare’s place in British and World
  literature and culture

Course Methodology
Course content is delivered through close reading, discussion, seminars, workshops, and field
trips. Each of these activities is mutually enhancing.

Course Assessment

Mid-Term Paper (20%)
You are expected to complete a take-home exercise. Further guidance is provided prior to the
submission.
Portfolio (60%)
A portfolio consisting of research exercises, editing exercises, and reflection on seminar topics. In each case, the assignment must be ten to twelve pages. Ample practice and guidance is given prior to the submission.

Attendance & Participation (20%)
Marks are awarded for presentations, punctuality, attendance, robust participation in seminars including completing preparatory reading and research tasks, and meeting deadlines.

Required Readings
It is essential that you read and reflect upon the relevant reading before each class. Although any modern edition of the plays is fine, the ones in brackets are particularly useful.

- Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (Sourcebooks Shakespeare edition which comes with a CD)
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (ed. by Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor for Arden Shakespeare or Sourcebooks Shakespeare edition which comes with a CD)

Time-Table: Seminar Topics, Texts, Assignment Deadlines, Field Trips

**Week 1: Tuesday, 12 January**
Topic: Introduction
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]
Further Reading:

**Week 2: Tuesday, 19 January**
Topic: Shakespeare Plays with Genre
Text: *Twelfth Night*
Further Reading:

**Week 3: Tuesday, 26 January (TBC)**
**Evening Field Trip: Performance of *Dottir*: A new play about the female voice in Shakespeare’s plays**

**Week 4: Tuesday, 2 February**
Topic: Performance Choices/Reviewing
Text: Various Texts [photocopies will be supplied]
Further Reading:

**Week 5: Tuesday 9 February**

Topic: Shakespeare’s London and Theatre Business

Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]

Further Reading:

**Week 6: Tuesday 16 February (TBC)**

Field Trip/Walking Lecture [within the seminar]: Shakespeare’s Globe

Topic: Globe and the City

Further Reading:

**Week 7: Tuesday 23 February**

Topic: Representing the Uncanny

Text: *Macbeth*

Further Reading:

**Week 8: Tuesday 1 March: No Seminar: Mid-Term Break**

**Week 9: Tuesday 8 March**

Topic: Textual Culture and Editing Shakespeare

Text: *Hamlet*

Further Reading:

**Assessment Deadline: Mid-Term Paper**

**Week 10: Tuesday 15 March**

Topic: Talking to the Audience

Text: *Hamlet*

Further Reading:
Week 11: Tuesday: 22 March  
Guest Lecture: Actor Christopher York  
A young and dynamic actor; he has played many Shakespeare roles including Richard III and Romeo to rave reviews. For more information:  
http://www.castingcallpro.com/uk/actor/profile/christopher-york

Week 12: Tuesday: 29 March  
Topic: Global Shakespeare  
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]  
Further Reading:  

Week 13: Tuesday: 5 April (TBC)  
Field Trip [within the seminar]: National Theatre Archives  
Topic: Unfinished Play or Excellent Experiment?  
Text: *Timon of Athens*  
Further Reading:  

Week 14: Tuesday: 12 April (TBC)  
Field Trip [within the seminar]: Victoria and Albert Museum  
Topic: Shakespeare in Popular Culture  
Text: Various Documents [photocopies will be supplied]  
Further Reading:  

Week 15: Tuesday: 19 April  
Topic: Revision and Future Directions

Week 16: Tuesday: 26 April  
Assessment Deadline: Final Paper