

**THEATRE 181  
SHAKESPEARE IN PERFORMANCE**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

THEA 181 - Shakespeare in Performance (3 credit hours)

**Course Description:**

Introduction to Shakespeare's works on page, stage, and screen. Emphasis placed on performances of scripts. History of Shakespeare's works/productions, stage/screen technique. Viewings of film adaptations required.

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students to the works of William Shakespeare, introduce basic concepts of stage and screen performance, and provide context for a variety of adaptations and presentations of Shakespearean scripts and stories in theatre and film. Students will be exposed to Shakespearean language and plays, stage conventions, film techniques, and text analysis for the theatre. Students are expected to complete all assignments as indicated, view all films assigned, participate in classroom discussion and activities, and support a mutually beneficial learning environment for all participants.

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of Theater 181, students will be able to:**

1. Discuss various interpretations of Shakespeare's work on film;
2. Explain the differences between crafting stage and screen performances and productions and apply this knowledge in analyzing each;
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major historical influences on Shakespeare;
4. Demonstrate familiarity with design and production concepts for theatre and film;
5. Compare Shakespeare's texts to film versions;
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of specific film adaptations of Shakespearean texts.

**SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS**

1. *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry V, Othello, Macbeth, Titus Andronicus, Twelfth Night* – all by William Shakespeare. *Shakespeare in Love (film script)* – Tom Stoppard.

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM**

1. **Two Midterm Exams and a Final Exam**
  - a. The midterm and final exams will test your knowledge and comprehension of the vocabulary, history, concepts, and content of the lectures, films, performances, and readings. The final exam is cumulative.
2. **Performance Responses**

- a. These are responses to the two main-stage productions by the USC theatre department: *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Polaroid Stories*. Questions will be posted on BlackBoard for response. To achieve full credit full answers to the prompt questions must be given and proper grammar used.
- 3. Film Responses**
  - a. Before 3:30 on the Wednesday following a viewing, you are responsible for filing a response via BlackBoard to the film.
- 4. Script Worksheets**
  - a. These will be handed out in class and are due on the day that each reading assignment is due.
- 5. In-class Assignments**
  - a. In-class assignments may take the form of quizzes on reading, activities in response to lecture/demonstration materials, contributions to discussion, and/or creative assignments to be done during class time.

**SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

- Week 1:** Intro – Syllabus, norms, etc.  
Shakespeare in Love  
Discuss Shakespeare; Elizabethan World, Shakespeare in Love
- Week 2:** Dramatic Construction (I)  
Romeo + Juliet  
Discuss Romeo; Dramatic Construction (II)
- Week 3:** Intro to Shakespearean Language and Midsummer
- Week 4:** Discuss AMND; Shake. Language (II)  
A Midsummer Night’s Dream  
Discuss Midsummer; Language wrap-up
- Week 5:** Discuss Titus And.; Directors and Production Concepts  
Titus  
Discuss Titus; Catch-up and Review Titus Andronicus
- Week 6:** Midterm #1  
Actors and Acting; Prep for Streetcar
- Week 7:** Discuss Othello; Language of Film (I)  
Othello  
Discuss Othello; Language of Film (II)
- Week 8:** Orson Welles, prep for Chimes  
Chimes at Midnight (Falstaff)

Discuss Chimes; Discuss Streetcar; Henry history  
Streetcar response due

**Week 9:** Discuss Henry V; Elements of Design  
Henry V  
Discuss Henry V; Catch-up and Review

**Week 10:** Midterm #2  
Elizabeth I, James I, Macbeth N/A

**Week 11:** Discuss Macbeth; Kurosawa  
Throne of Blood  
Discuss Throne; Designers (I)

**Week 12:** Designers (II)  
Richard III  
Discuss Richard; Editors and Editing N/A

**Week 13:** Discuss Twelfth Night (script), prep for film  
Twelfth Night  
Discuss Twelfth Night (film); England after James Twelfth Night

**Week 14:** Discuss Polaroid; Adaptation and Shakespeare  
She's The Man

**Week 15:** Shakespeare after Shakespeare  
Last Day of Class – Catch-up, Review, Course Evals

**Final Exam according to university exam schedule**