

ENGL4003 Shakespeare Now (Semester 1)

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This module explores Shakespeare's continuing aliveness in today's world. Engaging closely with a range of plays and poems, we will consider what light Shakespeare can shed on urgent social questions surrounding power, class and gender in the past, as well as his works' relevance to our current geo-political realities including #metoo and #BLM. Attending carefully to language, themes and genres, we will consider the opportunities for change opened up by Shakespeare's continuing vitality in today's global culture. Throughout the module students will be encouraged to engage closely with Shakespeare's words on the page, but also with recent interpretations and adaptations in performance, film and visual art.

164 items

Set texts (8 items)

The comedy of errors, by William Shakespeare, 2017

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Print and eBook - Please note this is the recommended edition

The comedy of errors, by William Shakespeare; Charles Walters Whitworth, 2002

[Book](#) | Oxford Shakespeare

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare, 2011

[Book](#) | Please note this is the recommended edition

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare; A. R. Humphreys, 2008

[Book](#)

Measure for measure, by William Shakespeare, 2020

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Print and eBook - Please note this is the recommended edition

Measure for measure, by William Shakespeare; Brian Gibbons, ©2006

[Book](#)

Oxford Shakespeare: Measure for Measure, by William Shakespeare; N. W. Bawcutt, 1991

[Book](#) | eBook

Teaching social justice through Shakespeare: why Renaissance literature matters now, edited by Hillary Caroline Eklund; Wendy Beth Hyman, 2019

[Book](#) | We will refer to this key secondary text throughout the module. You can access the eBook here.

DVDs, Digital Theatre and BoB recordings (10 items)

Digital Theatre provides access to recordings of live theatre performances. BoB is an online

archive of TV and radio programmes. Login with your Brookes ID to view these programmes

The Comedy of Errors (5 items)

The Comedy of Errors | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | **Essential** | Captured live in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2021, director Phillip Breen's hilarious adaptation for the RSC focuses on the widespread impact of family separation. This production forms the basis of your Close Reading Essay for this module.

The Comedy of Errors | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | This production was captured by Digital Theatre live at the Clapham Community Project. It was devised specifically for schools and families by the Royal Shakespeare Company in association with critically acclaimed theatre company, Told by an Idiot. Directed by Paul Hunter, it features a cast made up from the RSC's ensemble and uses a pared down script, props, live music and physical comedy to convey the story.

The Comedy of Errors | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | BBC Theatre production, directed by James Cellan Jones

Festival | The Comedy of Errors, Wednesday, 1 Jan 1964

Audio-visual document | Theatre production by Clifford Williams (1964). Television production by Peter Luke. Directed for television by Peter Duguid.

This production was staged at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, and subsequently ran at the Aldwych Theatre, London.

The Comedy of Errors | The BBC Television Shakespeare, Saturday, 24 Dec 1983

Audio-visual document | Television production (1983) with Michael Kitchen and Roger Daltrey doubling the roles of Antipholus and Dromio respectively. The 'commedia dell arte' style is underscored by the integration of mimes into the play.

Julius Caesar (3 items)

Julius Caesar (Donmar Warehouse) | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | The first instalment of Phyllida Lloyd's groundbreaking all-female Shakespeare Trilogy sees Harriet Walter take on the role of Brutus, who wrestles with his moral conscience over the murder of Julius Caesar.

The Donmar Shakespeare Trilogy began in 2012 with Julius Caesar and was followed by Henry IV in 2014 and The Tempest in 2016. Set in the world of a women's prison, these critically acclaimed productions were captured live at Donmar King's Cross and co-produced by the Donmar Warehouse and Illuminations.

Julius Caesar (Royal Shakespeare Company) | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | Captured live in Stratford-upon-Avon, this adaptation evokes imperialism at its most grandiose, creating a vivid spectacle from the conspirators' extreme act of violence.

Julius Caesar (Illuminations) | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | Gregory Doran relocates Shakespeare's tale of power and

corruption to post-independence Africa. Featuring an entirely Black British cast, this screen adaptation based on the Royal Shakespeare Company production acquires timely urgency in its modern setting. Shot on location and also at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon for the BBC following its 2012 run, *Julius Caesar* is a lavish film starring the original cast of a striking production.

Measure for Measure (2 items)

Measure for Measure Live from the Globe (2004), Saturday, 4 Sep 2004

Audio-visual document | Available online via BoB, Mark Rylance stars as Vincentio in John Dove's production of Shakespeare's classic comedy, set in the restored Globe with the ambience of a traditional Elizabethan amphitheatre. Note that this programme doesn't include subtitles or a transcript.

Measure for Measure | Digital Theatre

Audio-visual document | Captured live in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2019, RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran explores the parallels between 20th-century Vienna and the modern day #MeToo movement.

Shakespeare now (9 items)

Teaching social justice through Shakespeare: why Renaissance literature matters now, edited by Hillary Caroline Eklund; Wendy Beth Hyman, 2019

Book

Shakespeare in our time: a Shakespeare Association of America collection, by Shakespeare Association of America, 2016

Book

The Arden research handbook of Shakespeare and social justice, edited by David Ruiters, 2022

Book

The Arden research handbook of contemporary Shakespeare criticism, edited by Evelyn Gajowski, 2022

Book | See Part 4: Millennial directions; and Part 5: Twenty-first century directions

Shakespeare, spectatorship and the technologies of performance, by Pascale Aebischer, 2020

Book

Shakespeare and geek culture, edited by A. J. Hartley; Peter Holland, 2022

Book

The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare, by Margreta De Grazia; Stanley Wells, 2001

Book | See chapter 16 on 'Shakespeare Worldwide'

Shakespeare for freedom: why the plays matter, by Ewan Fernie, 2017

Book

Shakespeare in the present: political lessons under Biden, by Philip Goldfarb Styr, 2023

Book

Cultural Contexts (33 items)

Race (9 items)

Black Shakespeare: reading and misreading race, by Ian Smith, 2022

Book

The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare and race, edited by Ayanna Thompson, 2021

Book

The great white bard: Shakespeare, race and the future, by Farah Karim-Cooper, 2023

Book

Colorblind Shakespeare: new perspectives on race and performance, by Ayanna Thompson, 2006

Book

Shakespeare, race, and colonialism, by Ania Loomba, 2002

Book

The Arden research handbook of contemporary Shakespeare criticism, edited by Evelyn Gajowski, 2022

Book

Shakespeare and race, by Catherine M. S. Alexander; Stanley Wells, 2000

Book

Gender, race, Renaissance drama, by Ania Loomba, 1989

Book

Post-colonial Shakespeares, by Ania Loomba; Martin Orkin, 1998

Book | Print and eBook

Bodies and selves, gender, sexuality (15 items)

Shakespeare and emotion, edited by Katharine A. Craik, 2020

Book

Straight acting: the many queer lives of William Shakespeare, by Will Tosh, 2024

Book

Shakespearean sensations: experiencing literature in early modern England, by Katharine A. Craik; Tanya Pollard, 2013

Book | Print and eBook

Shakespeare/sex: contemporary readings in gender and sexuality, edited by Jennifer Drouin, 2022

[Book](#)

Shakespeare/sense: contemporary readings in sensory culture, edited by Simon Smith, 2022

[Book](#)

Queer philologies: sex, language, and affect in Shakespeare's time, by Jeffrey Masten, 2016

[Book](#)

Shakespeare, sex, & love, by Stanley Wells, 2010

[Book](#)

Passionate playgoing in early modern England, by Allison P. Hobgood, 2014

[Book](#)

Impersonations: the performance of gender in Shakespeare's England, by Stephen Orgel, 1996

[Book](#)

Shakespeare and gender in practice, by Terri Power, 2016

[Book](#)

Shame in Shakespeare, by Ewan Fernie, 2002

[Book](#)

Humoring the body: emotions and the Shakespearean stage, by Gail Kern Paster, 2004

[Book](#) | eBook

Feminist readings of early modern culture: emerging subjects, by Valerie Traub; M. Lindsay Kaplan; Dymphna Callaghan, 1996

[Book](#)

Enter the body: women and representation on Shakespeare's stage, by Carol Chillington Rutter, 2001

[Book](#) | Print and eBook

A feminist companion to Shakespeare, by Dymphna Callaghan, 2000

[Book](#)

Language and theory (5 items)

Shakespeare and literary theory, by Jonathan Gil Harris, 2010

[Book](#)

Essential Shakespeare: the Arden guide to text and interpretation, by Pamela Bickley; Jennifer Stevens, 2013

[Book](#)

Shakespeare's world of words, edited by Paul Edward Yachnin, 2015

[Book](#) | Book not available in Brookes Library

Shakespeare's language, by Frank Kermode, 2000

Book

Shakespeare in theory and practice, by Catherine Belsey, 2008

Book

Money, economies, labour (4 items)

Shakespearean negotiations: the circulation of social energy in Renaissance England, by Stephen Greenblatt, 1988

Book

Radical tragedy: religion, ideology and power in the drama of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, by Jonathan Dollimore, 1989

Book

Shakespeare survey: Volume 66: Working with Shakespeare, edited by Peter Holland, 2013

Book

Drama and the market in the age of Shakespeare, by Douglas Bruster, 1992

Book

Shakespeare on stage (21 items)

History of performance (8 items)

Acting companies and their plays in Shakespeare's London, by Siobhan Keenan, 2014

Book

Staging in Shakespeare's theatres, by Andrew Gurr; Mariko Ichikawa, 2000

Book

Playgoing in Shakespeare's London, by Andrew Gurr, 2004

Book

Actors and acting in Shakespeare's time: the art of stage playing, by John Astington, c2010

Book | Print and eBook

Shakespeare and the power of performance: stage and page in the Elizabethan theatre, by Robert Weimann; Douglas Bruster, 2008

Book

Making Shakespeare: from stage to page, by Tiffany Stern, 2004

Book | Print and eBook

Author's pen and actor's voice: playing and writing in Shakespeare's theatre, by Robert Weimann; Helen Higbee; William West, 2000

Book | Print and eBook

Shakespeare's theatre: a history, by Richard Dutton, 2018

Book

Recent and contemporary performance (13 items)

Lockdown Shakespeare: new evolutions in performance and adaptation, edited by Gemma Kate Allred; Benjamin Broadribb; Erin Sullivan, 2022

Book

Viral Shakespeare: performance in the time of pandemic, by Pascale Aebischer, 2021

Book

A companion to Shakespeare and performance, by Barbara Hodgdon; William B. Worthen, 2005

Book | Print and eBook

Women making Shakespeare: text, reception, performance, edited by Gordon McMullan; Lena Cowen Orlin; Virginia Mason Vaughan, 2014

Book

Shakespeare and the cultures of performance, by Paul Edward Yachnin; Patricia Badir, c2008

Book

Rough magic: making theatre at the Royal Shakespeare Company, by Steven Adler, 2001

Book

Inside the Royal Shakespeare Company: creativity and the institution, by Colin Chambers, 2004

Book

Shakespeare's theatres and the effects of performance, edited by Farah Karim-Cooper; Tiffany Stern, 2013

Book

Shakespeare and the theatrical event, by John Russell Brown, 2002

Book

Shakespeare and the cultures of performance, by Paul Edward Yachnin; Patricia Badir, c2008

Book

The Shakespeare Company: 1594-1642, by Andrew Gurr, 2010

Book | Book not available in Brookes Library

Moving Shakespeare indoors: performance and repertoire in the Jacobean Playhouse, edited by Andrew Gurr; Farah Karim-Cooper, 2014

Book

The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare on stage, by Sarah Stanton; Stanley Wells, 2002

[Book](#)

Shakespeare on screen (12 items)

The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare on film, by Russell Jackson, 2000

[Book](#)

Shakespeare and the moving image: the plays on film and television, by Anthony Davies; Stanley Wells, 1994

[Book](#)

Women as Hamlet: performance and interpretation in theatre, film and fiction, by Tony Howard, c2007

[Book](#)

Interpreting Shakespeare on screen, by Deborah Cartmell, 2000

[Book](#)

Shakespeare, from stage to screen, by Sarah Hatchuel, 2004

[Book](#) | Print and eBook

A concise companion to Shakespeare on screen, by Diana E. Henderson, 2006

[Book](#)

New wave Shakespeare on screen, by Thomas Cartelli; Katherine Rowe, 2007

[Book](#)

Shakespeare and YouTube: new media forms of the bard, by Stephen O'Neill, 2014

[Book](#)

Screening Shakespeare in the twenty-first century, by Mark Thornton Burnett; Ramona Wray, c2006

[Book](#) | Print and eBook

Shakespeare observed: studies in performance on stage and screen, by Samuel Crowl, 1992

[Book](#)

Shakespeare survey: 61: Shakespeare, sound and screen, by Peter Holland, 2008

[Book](#)

A history of Shakespeare on screen: a century of film and television, by Kenneth S. Rothwell, 2004

[Book](#)

Biographies (7 items)

Will in the world: how Shakespeare became Shakespeare, by Stephen Greenblatt, 2014

[Book](#)

Ungentle Shakespeare: scenes from his life, by Katherine Duncan-Jones, 2001

Book

Shakespeare: the biography, by Peter Ackroyd, 2006

Book

Nine lives of William Shakespeare, by Graham Holderness, 2013

Book

Shakespeare: a life, by Park Honan, 1999

Book | Print and eBook

The lodger: Shakespeare on Silver Street, by Charles Nicholl, 2008

Book | Book not available in Brookes Library

1599: a year in the life of William Shakespeare, by James S. Shapiro, 2005

Book

Week 1. Introduction (14 items)

General Introductions to Shakespeare

Reading Shakespeare, by Michael Alexander, 2013

Book

Shakespeare, by Sean McEvoy, 2013

Book

The Oxford companion to Shakespeare, by Michael Dobson; Stanley Wells; Will Sharpe; Erin Sullivan, 2015

Book | 2nd ed. e-book

The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare, by Margreta De Grazia; Stanley Wells, 2001

Book

The Oxford handbook of Shakespeare, by Arthur F. Kinney, 2012

Book

Doing Shakespeare, by Simon Palfrey, 2011

Book | Print and eBook

The Routledge guide to William Shakespeare, by Robert Shaughnessy, 2011

Book | Print and eBook

The Cambridge introduction to Shakespeare, by Emma Smith, c2007

Book

Shakespeare: an Oxford guide, by Lena Cowen Orlin; Stanley Wells, 2003

Book

Shakespeare: the poet and his plays, by Stanley Wells, 2001

Book

In Search of Shakespeare: Part 1 - A Time of Revolution, by Michael Wood, Saturday, 28 Jun 2003

Audio-visual document

In Search of Shakespeare: Part 2 - The Lost Years, by Michael Wood, Saturday, 5 Jul 2003

Audio-visual document

In Search of Shakespeare: Part 3 - The Duty of Poets, by Michael Wood, Saturday, 12 Jul 2003

Audio-visual document

In Search of Shakespeare: Part 4 - For All Time, by Michael Wood, Saturday, 19 Jul 2003

Audio-visual document

Criticism on The Comedy of Errors (14 items)

General criticism on Comedy (14 items)

The Oxford handbook of Shakespeare, by Arthur F. Kinney, 2012

Book | See Chapter 12 - 'Gender' by Andrew Hiscock

The comedy of errors: critical essays, by Robert S. Miola, 2001

Book

Shakespeare survey: an annual survey of Shakespeare studies and production, 56: Shakespeare and comedy, by Peter Holland, 2003

Book

Shakespeare and comedy, by R. W. Maslen, 2005

Book | See pp. 63-83 for a discussion of comedy and time in 'The Comedy of Errors'

The Cambridge companion to Shakespearean comedy, by Alexander Leggatt, 2002

Book

Shakespeare and the uses of comedy, by J. A. Bryant, ©1986

Book | See Chapter 2 on 'The Comedy of Errors'

Shakespearian comedy, by H. B. Charlton, 2005

Book | See pp. 44-72 on 'The Comedy of Errors'

Journal articles on 'The Comedy of Errors' (7 items)

Between Worlds in Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors - in *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, by Jane Hwang Degenhardt; Henry S. Turner, 2021

Article

The Twin Who Came from Abroad: The Comedy of Errors and Transcultural Adaptation - in *Shakespeare*, by Wieland Schwanebeck, 2020

Article

"Mark how he trembles in his ecstasy": Space, Place, and Self in The Comedy of Errors - in Shakespeare Studies, by Jennifer J. Edwards, 2020

Article

Home and Abroad: Crossing the Mediterranean in Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors - in Mediterranean Studies, by Geraldo U. de Sousa, 2018

Article

Face-Off: Defacement, Ethics and the 'Neighbour' in The Comedy of Errors - in Textual Practice, by Richard Ashby, 2018

Article

"The Comedy of Errors" and the Theology of Things - in Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900, by Richard Finkelstein, 2012

Article

Language, Magic, the Dromios, and "The Comedy of Errors" - in Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900, by Kent Cartwright, 2007

Article

Criticism on Julius Caesar (13 items)

General Criticism on the Roman Plays (6 items)

Shakespeare and violence, by R. A. Foakes, 2003

Book

Shakespeare's Roman plays, by Paul Innes, 2015

Book

Roman Shakespeare: warriors, wounds, and women, by
Coppe

lia Kahn, 1997

Book

Shakespeare and classical antiquity, by Colin Burrow, 2013

Book

Shakespeare and the classics, by Charles Martindale; A. B. Taylor, 2004

Book

Crowd and rumour in Shakespeare, by Kai Wiegandt, 2016

Book

Journal Articles on 'Julius Caesar' (7 items)

'I grant I am a woman': Gender and Silence in Julius Caesar - in Shakespeare, by Esther B.

Schupak, 2019

Article

Crowd and rumour in Shakespeare, by Kai Wiegandt, 2016

Book | Please see chapter 4: 'The Metatheatricality of the Crowd: Julius Caesar'

"Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?": Examining a Theory of Social Justice through Will-Making in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar - in Shakespeare in Southern Africa: Journal of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa, by Lisa M. Barksdale-Shaw, 2020

Article

Tyranny, Insurrection, and the Crowd: Julius Caesar, Coriolanus and Appropriations of the Roman Past - in The Journal of the Wooden O, by Brian Carroll, 2021

Article

Shakespeare's "Monstrous State": Divination, Typology, and the Book of Nature in Julius Caesar - in Modern Philology: Critical and Historical Studies in Literature, Medieval Through Contemporary, by Aaron Kitch, 2021

Article

No Perfect Heroes: Revisiting the Heroic Ideal in Manga Shakespeare Julius Caesar - in B. A. S.: British and American Studies/Revista de Studii Britanice și Americane, by Andreea Șerban, 2020

Article

Julius Caesar and the 2016 Presidential Election - in English Journal, by Ameer Sohrawardy, 2018

Article

Criticism on Measure for Measure (23 items)

See also your Moodle course for guidance and links to further resources

Measure for measure, by Peter Corbin, 1996

Book

The problem of Measure for measure: a historical investigation, by Rosalind Miles, 1976

Book

Politics, plague, and Shakespeare's theater: the Stuart years, by J. Leeds Barroll, 1991

Book

Measure for measure, by Graham Nicholls, 1986

Book

Shakespeare in London, by Hannah Jane Crawforth; Sarah Dustagheer; Jennifer Young, 2015, ©2014

Book | See chapter on 'Measure for Measure'

Measure for Measure: The Flesh Made Word - in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, by Ronald R. Macdonald, 1990

Article

Measure for Measure (Chastity and Consent) (8 items)

Assaying the Power of Chastity in Measure for Measure - in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, by Barbara J. Baines, 1990

Article

Women in Shakespeare: a dictionary, by Alison Findlay, ©2014

Book

Shakespeare and women, by Phyllis Rackin, 2005

Book | Print and eBook

Shakespeare and the nature of women, by Juliet Dusinberre, 2003

Book

A feminist companion to Shakespeare, edited by Dymphna Callaghan, 2016

Book | 2nd edition | eBook

A feminist companion to Shakespeare, by Dymphna Callaghan, 2000

Book

Shakespeare, feminism and gender, by Kate Chedgzoy, 2001

Book

Pleasure and Danger: Measuring Female Sexuality in Measure for Measure - in *ELH*, by Mario Digangi, 1993

Article

Measure for Measure (Politics and Justice) (9 items)

Public Justice and Private Mercy in "Measure for Measure" - in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, by Stacy Magedanz, 2004

Article

Shakespeare's problem plays, by E. M. W. Tillyard, 1950

Book

Shakespeare: the dark comedies to the last plays : from satire to celebration, by R. A. Foakes, 1971

Book | Print and eBook

Staging Justice: James I and the Trial Scenes of Measure for Measure - in *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, by Craig A. Bernthal, 1992

Article

Authority, Truth, and Justice in Measure for Measure - in *The Review of English Studies*, by M. C. Bradbrook, 1941

[Article](#)

Duke Vincentio and Angelo: Would "A Feather Turn the Scale"? - in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, by Richard A. Levin, 1982

[Article](#)

"Dark Deeds Darkly Answered": Duke Vincentio and Judgment In Measure for Measure - in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, by Cynthia Lewis, 1983

[Article](#)

Unknown Sovereignty": Measure for Measure and the Mysteries of State - in *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, by Patrick Fadely, 2018

[Article](#)

"Measure for Measure" and the Problem of Popularity - in *English Literary Renaissance*, by Jeffrey S. Doty, 2012

[Article](#)