***ENGL 27600: Shakespeare on Film***

*Fall 2010 MW 10:30-12:20 MSEE B012*

Professor Charles Ross; Office: Heavilon Hall 313

Office hours: MWF 2:30-3:00, after class, or by appointment any time

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Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00, Th 10:00-12:00, or by appointment

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***Course description***

In this course we watch important film adaptations of Shakespeare’s plays, read the plays, and consider the differences between their presentation on the page, the stage, and the screen.

***Course objectives***

In this class you will

* Read nine Shakespeare plays
* Respond to films based on Shakespeare’s plays orally and in writing
* Compare different cinematic versions
* Consider film as an aesthetic experience and how it differs from a stage play or a text
* Learn about Shakespeare’s life and language, distinguish verse from prose,
* Learn to think about the genres of comedy, tragedy, history, and romance
* Think about what aspects of human nature are timeless, which are culturally conditioned

***Required Texts:***

*William Shakespeare: The Complete Works*. Ed. Stephen Orgel and A. R. Braunmuller. New York: Penguin Books, 2002.

***Web access***

You can link to me by way of boiardo.com. Or check Blackboard, which we will use if it is working properly.

**Course Schedule:**

8/23A Shakespeare’s life

8/23B *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (94 minutes)

8/25A *Love’s Labour’s Lost*

8/25B Discussion; the missing poems

8/30A Softening the taming

8/30B *The Taming of the Shrew* (122 minutes)

9/1A *The Taming of the Shrew*

9/1B Discussion; meter

9/6 Labor Day (no class)

9/8A *10 Things I Hate About You;* Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford

9/8B Female agency; water imagery

9/13A Meter and scansion

9/13B *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

9/15A *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

9/15B Discussion

**First Paper: Compare a scene in one of the plays we have readto one film version, or see me if you have another topic. Email your paper to** [**rosscs@purdue.edu**](mailto:rosscs@purdue.edu) **before 10:30 AM September 20. (3 point deduction for each day thereafter. 3-5 pages)**

9/20A Comedy

9/20B *The Merchant of Venice*

9/22A *The Merchant of Venice*

9/22B Discussion

9/27A Comedy

9/27B *Much Ado About Nothing* (111 minutes)

9/29A *Much Ado About Nothing*

9/29BDiscussion

10/4A&B **Midterm**

10/6A Introduction to *Richard III*

10/6B *Richard III*

[10/11 No class]

10/13A *Richard III*

10/13B Discussion

10/18A Lady Anne

10/18B Olivier *Richard III*

10/20AAl Pacino, *Searching for Richard*

10/20B Discussion

10/25A Juliet’s character

10/25B *Romeo&Juliet*

10/27 A *Romeo&Juliet*

10/27B Discussion

11/1A Sonnets

11/1B The Balcony

11/3 The duel

11/8A Premonitions

11/8B Act 5

11/10A Introduction to *Hamlet*

11/10B *Hamlet*

11/15A *Hamlet*

11/15B Discussion

11/17A Olivier’s *Hamlet*

11/17B Soliloquies

**Second Paper:**

Analyze a film actor's performance based on Shakespeare’s text. What assumptions, interpretations, or changes does the film make? Pay special attention to the film character's clothing, facial expressions, and movements. What visual associations does the film make that the text can only imply? Be sure to include an assessment of the film actor's performance based on your analysis (a good, bad, or mediocre job?). **Email your paper to bspangen@purdue.edu before 5:00 PM November 23. (3 point deduction for each day thereafter. 5-10 pages)**

11/22A Video project assistance

11/22B Video project assistance

11/24 Thanksgiving

11/29A More *Hamlet*

11/29B More *Hamlet*

12/1A Introduction to *Macbeth*

12/1B *Macbeth*

**Video Projects/In-class Performances due up on YouTube by 10:30 AM December 6. (3 points penalty for each day late. )**

12/6A *Macbeth*

12/6/B *Discussion*

12/8A Class presentations

12/8B Class presentations

**Final exam**: Friday December 18, 10:30-12:20, same room MSEE B012.

Films:

1) *Love’s Labour’s* Lost, directed by Kenneth Branagh (2000, 94 minutes)

2) Taming *of the Shrew*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli; starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton (1968; 122 minutes)

3) *10 Things I Hate about You*, starrring Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger (1999, 97 minutes)

4) *A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream*, starring Kevin Kline and Michelle Pfeiffer (1999, 120 minutes)

5) *The Merchant of Venice*, starring Al Pacino (2004, 131 minutes)

6) *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Kenneth Branagh; starring Branagh, Emma Thompson, Keanu Reeves, and Denzel Washington (1993; 111 minutes)

7) *The Tragedy of Richard III,* starring Ian McKellen (1995; 104 minutes)

8) *Romeo&Juliet,* directed by Baz Lurhmann, starring Claire Danes and Leonard DiCaprio (1996; 120 minutes)

9) *Hamlet*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli; starring Mel Gibson (1990; 135 minutes)

10) *Macbeth*, directed by Roman Polanski (1971, 139 minutes)

Note: Purdue’s policy on film courses is to schedule them for four hours instead of three. That means an extra 750 minutes of class time per semester. Scheduled screenings for this class take up 716 minutes of this syllabus. That leaves a standard course of three full hours of class time. DVDs are on reserve in the Hicks Undergraduate library.

**Readings:**

Read the six plays corresponding to the films. You should read the related introductory material in Bevington’s edition (which is no longer in print), available on reserve in the Hicks Undergraduate Library. You may find most of the *Playing Shakespeare* video material, which I show occasionally, in text form in *Playing Shakespeare*. Here are the excerpts:

“Shakespeare’s Life” (pp. 7-11)

“The Sonnets” (pp. 25-28)

“Varieties of Verse and Prose” (pp. 28-31)

“Page to Stage” (pp. 48-49)

“Screenplay to Screen” (pp. 55-68)

“Shakespeare and Comedy” (pp. 73-76)

“Fathers and Daughters” and “Role Playing” (pp. 81-82)

“Kenneth Branagh’s Screenplay” (p. 268-271).

“More Recent Film Versions” (pp. 386-389)

“Baz Luhrman” (pp. 559-563)

“Olivier” (pp. 634-636)

# Study Hints:

1) Read the posted pages available on Blackboard ahead of class, if available.

2) Read and outline each play: for each scene, list the characters, summarize what is happening, then write a one-sentence “action statement” that states in the main clause of the sentence the most important action that *one character* takes *in that scene*. This exercise is for your benefit to help you realize the structure of the plays.

3) Take notes.

4) Lectures are available on Boilercast: [http://boilercast.itap.purdue.edu:1013/Boilercast/](https://exchange.purdue.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://boilercast.itap.purdue.edu:1013/Boilercast/)

**The Digital Learning Collaboratory (DLC):**

The DLC (HIKS B853) is full of outstanding resources that you may wish to utilize for your multimedia projects. <http://www.dlc.purdue.edu>.

**Grading:** Points possible for assignments are as follows.

Midterm #1 200

Midterm #2 200

Final Exam 200

Video Project/In-class Performance 100

Essay #1 100

Essay #2 200

Final grades will be based on the following percentage scale, out of 1000 points: 100-94 A; 93-90 A-; 89-87 B+; 86-84 B; 83-80 B-; 79-77 C+; 76-74 C; 73-70 C-; 69-67 D+; 66-64 D; 63-60 D-; 59-0 F

*Come to class. Have fun. You are honorable adults. Do you own work. (Please be aware of the penalties for doing otherwise, as set forth in Purdue University’s “Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students” [*[*http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm*](http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm)*.].In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Here are ways to get information about changes in this course: Blackboard Vista web page, my email address: rosscs@purdue.edu, and my office phone: 494-3749. During the last two weeks of the semester, you will be provided an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor.  To this end, Purdue has transitioned to online course evaluations.  On Monday of the fifteenth week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site.  You will have two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation in this evaluation is an integral part of this course. Your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University.  I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.*