

## ENGL/THEA 415

# Renaissance Studies: Shakespeare's Classical Worlds

**Trimester 2 2013**

15 July to 17 November 2013

**30 Points**



The suicide of Brutus. From Geoffrey Whitney, *A Choice of Emblems* (1586)

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Last piece of assessment due:	25 October 2013

### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lecture

Fri                    0900-1200        von Zedlitz 808

Actual start time will be 9.15.

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
Geoff Miles	<a href="mailto:Geoff.Miles@vuw.ac.nz">Geoff.Miles@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6809	vZ906

No formal office hours – contact me by email or in person to arrange a meeting.

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be communicated through the course Blackboard site.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## PRESCRIPTION

This course deals with a group of Shakespeare's plays set in the classical worlds of ancient Greece and Rome. It will raise questions of what classical antiquity means to Shakespeare, how he uses it dramatically, and whether there is any consistency in his view of it across a range of different periods and genres. We will also look at the relationship with some of Shakespeare's classical and medieval sources and contexts.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should:

- (1) have a close knowledge of each of the Shakespearean texts, their plots, characters, and concerns
- (2) be acquainted with some of Shakespeare's source texts, and able to make arguments about Shakespeare's use of them
- (3) be able to draw comparisons across the range of Shakespearean texts, and formulate broad conclusions about Shakespeare's relationship to and treatment of the classical world.
- (4) be able to formulate and carry out a research project drawing on both primary and secondary material.

## TEACHING FORMAT

The seminars are based around group discussion, and students need to be well-prepared and ready to participate in (and lead) discussion. You should prepare for each class by reading the assigned texts (play and source material) and be ready to discuss them. In addition, each student will be required to present one seminar presentation (about 15-20 mins), which will form part of the class assessment (see below).

You are expected to attend all seminars. If you are unable to attend one, please contact me as soon as you can in order to find out what you will need to do before the next meeting of the class.

### MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied include the completion of a class presentation, a research proposal, and two essays, by 25 October. You are expected to attend all seminars unless there is an overwhelming reason why you cannot do so. Failure to satisfy the course requirements will leave you with a fail grade.

### WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week. Note that this is a rough guide only, which will vary from student to student and from week to week.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment for the course is entirely internal.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Class presentation	15%	1,2	variable
2	Essay, around 2500 words	30%	1,2	16 Aug
3	Research proposal with annotated bibliography	15%	all	13 Sept
4	Research essay, around 4000 words	40%	all	25 Oct

Notes:

- **The class presentation** should be about 15-20 minutes, on a topic discussed in advance with me. It should serve as an introduction to class discussion and debate, and you should give me (by the Monday morning before the class) a list of questions for the class to discuss, which will be posted on Blackboard. A written-up version, which may be in 'note' form but should clearly set out arguments and evidence, should be submitted within a week of the seminar (date subject to negotiation!). Assessment will be based jointly on the oral and written versions
- **The first essay** will be a discussion of a single Shakespeare text and its relation to its source(s); topics will be provided.
- **Research project.** The 4000-word **research essay** itself, the major assessed item for the course, should be a discussion of a significant issue related to Shakespeare's classical plays, dealing in some depth with at least four plays. It should engage with critical discussion of the plays, and (if you wish) with historical and theatrical material. The **research proposal**, due about six weeks before the due date for the essay,

should be about 2 A4 sides, including an **annotated bibliography** containing 5-10 items; it should lay out the issue you propose to deal with, how you intend to approach it, and what earlier critical or background materials you propose to draw upon.

Written work should be presented in accordance with the School's style sheet, which will be distributed. For the sake of external examining you must hand in two identical hard copies of your work. One copy will be marked and returned to you.

All in-term work must be presented in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in a style sheet, which will be available on Blackboard.

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

### **SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK**

Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your course instructor in class or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

### **PENALTIES**

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

### **SET TEXTS**

ENGL/THEA 415 coursebook: *Shakespeare's Classical Worlds: Sources and Backgrounds* (Student Notes).

**EITHER** *The Norton Shakespeare*, ed Stephen Greenblatt (Norton, 2nd edition);  
**OR** individual editions of the ten plays; the following editions are recommended:  
*Titus Andronicus*, ed. Jonathan Bate (Arden Shakespeare);  
*The Comedy of Errors*, ed. Charles Whitworth (Oxford World's Classics);  
*Julius Caesar*, ed. David Daniell (Arden);  
*Antony and Cleopatra*, ed. Michael Neill (Oxford);  
*Coriolanus*, ed. R B Parker (Oxford);  
*Troilus and Cressida*, ed. David Bevington (Arden);  
*Timon of Athens*, ed. John Jowett (Oxford);  
*Pericles*, ed. Roger Warren (Oxford);  
*Cymbeline*, ed. Roger Warren (Oxford).  
*The Two Noble Kinsmen*, ed. Lois Potter (Arden).

You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

#### CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

**Class Rep name and email address for this course:**

#### STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	19 Jul	<b>Introduction</b>
Week 2	26 Jul	<b>Senecan tragedy: <i>Titus Andronicus</i></b> Also read: extracts from Seneca's <i>Thyestes</i> and Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>
Week 3	2 Aug	<b>Plautine comedy: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i></b> Also read: Plautus's <i>Menaechmi</i> (Warner's translation), and Biblical passages
Week 4	9 Aug	<b>Plutarch and Roman history 1: <i>Julius Caesar</i></b> Also read: Plutarch's Lives of Caesar and Brutus
Week 5	16 Aug	<b>Plutarch and Roman history 2: <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i></b> Also read: Plutarch's Life of Antony
Week 6	23 Aug	<b>Plutarch and Roman history 3: <i>Coriolanus</i></b> Also read: Plutarch's Life of Caius Martius Coriolanus
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013		
Week 7	13 Sep	<b>Greece and tragical satire 1: <i>Troilus and Cressida</i></b> (No supplementary reading)
Week 8	20 Sep	<b>Greece and tragical satire 2: <i>Timon of Athens</i></b> Also read: Lucian's 'Timon the Misanthrope'; passage from Plutarch
Week 9	27 Sep	<b>Romance and the classical world 1: <i>Pericles</i></b> Also read: passages from Gower's <i>Confessio Amantis</i> and Twine's <i>Pattern of Painful Adventures</i>
Week 10	4 Oct	<b>Romance and the classical world 2: <i>Cymbeline</i></b> Also read: Boccaccio's story of Bernarbo and Ginevra; passage from Holinshed's <i>Chronicles</i>
Week 11	11 Oct	<b>Romance and the classical world 3: <i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i></b> Also read: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> ; Chaucer's 'Knight's Tale'
Week 12	18 Oct	<b>Conclusion</b>