

ENGL 415 Renaissance Studies: Shakespeare's Classical Worlds

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

20 Points



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

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 26 October 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tue	12.00 – 2.50pm	VZ808
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NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
Geoff Miles	Geoff.Miles@vuw.ac.nz	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 world 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 be able to:

- (1) demonstrate a close knowledge of each of the Shakespearean texts, their plots, characters, and concerns
- (2) demonstrate a close knowledge of some of Shakespeare's source texts, and make arguments about Shakespeare's use of them
- (3) draw comparisons across the range of Shakespearean texts, and formulate broad conclusions about Shakespeare's relationship to and treatment of the classical world.
- (4) 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.

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	18 Aug
3	Research proposal with annotated bibliography	15%	all	15 Sept
4	Research essay, around 4000 words	40%	all	26 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.

All in-term work must be presented in accordance with the guidelines for writing and referencing in the *SEFTMS Student Handbook*, 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. 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

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office on von Zedlitz Level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to english@vuw.ac.nz.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. 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.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 13 November 2015.**

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.

SET TEXTS

ENGL 415 Student Notes.

AND EITHER

The Norton Shakespeare. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. Norton.

OR

Shakespeare. *Titus Andronicus*. Ed. Jonathan Bate. Arden.

Shakespeare. *The Comedy of Errors*. Ed. Charles Whitworth. Oxford World's Classics.

Shakespeare. *Julius Caesar*. Ed. David Daniell. Arden.

Shakespeare. *Troilus and Cressida*. Ed. David Bevington. Arden.

Shakespeare. *Timon of Athens*. Ed. John Jowett. Oxford World's Classics.

Shakespeare. *Antony and Cleopatra*. Ed. Michael Neill. Oxford World's Classics.

Shakespeare. *Coriolanus*. Ed. R B Parker. Oxford World's Classics.

Shakespeare. *Pericles*. Ed. Roger Warren. Oxford World's Classics.

Shakespeare. *Cymbeline*. Ed. Roger Warren. Oxford World's Classics.

Shakespeare. *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Ed. Lois Potter. Arden.

Other editions are acceptable, but recent, fully annotated, scholarly editions (e.g. Oxford, Cambridge, Arden) are strongly recommended.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

[Student feedback from earlier versions of the course was very positive.](#) Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 415

- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	14 Jul	Introduction
Week 2	21 Jul	Senecan tragedy: <i>Titus Andronicus</i> Also read: extracts from Seneca's <i>Thyestes</i> and Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>
Week 3	28 Jul	Plautine comedy: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> Also read: Plautus's <i>Menaechmi</i> (Warner's translation), and Biblical passages
Week 4	4 Aug	Plutarch and Roman history 1: <i>Julius Caesar</i> Also read: Plutarch's Lives of Caesar and Brutus
Week 5	11 Aug	Plutarch and Roman history 2: <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> Also read: Plutarch's Life of Antony
Week 6	18 Aug	Plutarch and Roman history 3: <i>Coriolanus</i> Also read: Plutarch's Life of Caius Martius Coriolanus
Mid Trimester Break:	Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015	
Week 7	8 Sep	Greece and tragical satire 1: <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> (No supplementary reading)
Week 8	15 Sep	Greece and tragical satire 2: <i>Timon of Athens</i> Also read: Lucian's 'Timon the Misanthrope'; passage from Plutarch
Week 9	22 Sep	Romance and the classical world 1: <i>Pericles</i> Also read: passages from Gower's <i>Confessio Amantis</i> and Twine's <i>Pattern of Painful Adventures</i>
Week 10	29 Sep	Romance and the classical world 2: <i>Cymbeline</i> Also read: Boccaccio's story of Bernarbo and Ginevra; passage from Holinshed's <i>Chronicles</i>
Week 11	6 Oct	Romance and the classical world 3: <i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i> Also read: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> ; Chaucer's 'Knight's Tale'
Week 12	13 Oct	Conclusion