

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

**Academic School/ Department:** Communications, Arts & Social Sciences

**Programme:** Performance and Theatre Arts

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Shakespeare and his World I

**Course Code:** THR 5405

**Course Leader:** Dr Michael Barclay

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 33

Theatre visits: 12

Independent /Guided learning: 75

**Semester:** Fall

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits  
6 ECTS credits  
3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course provides historical and theoretical contexts to Shakespeare's plays and approaches them with a variety of different critical methods. Shakespeare in performance is an integral part of the course and students are expected to see productions of most texts studied. An additional fee is required for outside trips.

**Prerequisites:** ARW 4195

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to develop transferable skills which include:

- a) reading closely for nuance and appreciating how language and form impact the production of meaning
- b) engaging critically with both primary and secondary texts to develop informed opinions and make incisive interpretations
- c) writing carefully and clearly to present persuasive critical arguments that demonstrate both a) and b)
- d) the ability to research purposefully, quote cogently and engage with critical arguments
- e) the ability to keep multiple contexts in mind when discussing the text and understanding how these contexts affect the production of meaning

**Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

A6,A7,A8,A11,B1,B12,C1,C2,C3,C4,C5,C6,C9,C10,C11,D8.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**At the end of this course, successful students are expected to:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of cultural and political contexts of the plays discussed, and show evidence of wider reading.
- Articulate ideas that identify, analyse and communicate principles and concepts of the Shakespeare plays discussed, while considering competing points of view.
- Undertake research to demonstrate detailed knowledge of theories and concepts in Shakespeare studies as applied to the plays discussed.

**Indicative Content:**

- Introduction to complex field of Shakespeare studies
- In-depth study of 4-5 key Shakespeare plays, including comedies, histories and tragedies each semester the chosen plays are based on productions currently on in London and at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, plays are different every time.
- Theatre visits to see plays in performance and analysis of performances in class
- Overview of Shakespeare's literary contexts: his sources and influences
- Overview of Shakespeare's historical context: London in the 1590s and early 1600s
- Understanding of Elizabethan and Jacobean politics and thought
- Understanding of classic-early-twentieth-century Shakespeare scholarship
- Introduction to contemporary theory and its application in Shakespeare studies
- Appreciation of Shakespeare's use of language and poetic devices

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved by Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Lectures, theatre visits, classroom discussions, video.

**Bibliography:**

Greenblatt, Stephen et al (ed.), *The Norton Shakespeare* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2008)

