

English 253 / Cinema 253. Shakespeare on Film Before 1600.

Spring 2007

Class:

Fri. 1:30-4:30 (in Hillyer 303). The films will be available at other times for viewing in the Library.
The ending time of class sessions may run later if a film is shown in the session in question.

Instructor:

Humphrey Tonkin, University Professor of the Humanities (tonkin@hartford.edu)

Website: <http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/TONKIN/intro.html>.

Office: Mortensen Library, Room 307. Office telephone: 768-4448

Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:00 or by appointment.

Home telephone: 561-2669 Home fax: 561-5219

Admin. Asst. Judy Kacmarcik, Mortensen Library, 2nd Flr., 768-4269

Course Objectives:

1. An understanding of the texts and staging of the plays studied, and of the interpretative assumptions built into their reinterpretation as film.
2. A deeper understanding of Shakespeare generally, and particularly Shakespearean language, as a result of studying these plays and their film adaptations.
3. A knowledge of the history of Shakespearean film adaptations.
4. An ability to write coherently on these subjects, to analyze critically, and to sustain and defend an argument.

Texts:

The following should be purchased:

Romeo and Juliet, ed. Wolfgang Clemen. Signet Classics.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, ed. Wolfgang Clemen. Signet Classics

Henry V, ed. John Russell Brown. Signet Classics

Copies are available at the Bookstore.

Attendance:

Since the class meets only once a week, students are expected to attend **all** sessions, unless they have notified the instructor in advance and made arrangements to cover the material missed. More than two unexcused absences from class will result in automatic failure of the course.

Grading and Assignments:

1. All students are expected to see all the films specified in the schedule – by the date indicated. Every effort will be taken to make this easy for students, but ultimately it is their responsibility to view the films in the library or elsewhere if they cannot be present when the films are shown.
2. There will be two short papers and a longer final paper. There will also be an exam. Class participation will be graded. There will also be occasional quizzes to review progress. Grades will be based 15% on the first paper, 15% on the second, 25% on the final paper, 25% on the final exam, 10% on participation, and 10% on quizzes. All work must be completed before a semester grade is awarded. Papers must be handed in on time: for late papers the grade will be reduced by one letter grade per day.
3. Students who wish to rewrite papers should talk with the instructor.

4. Any of the above may change as the semester progresses, so please be alert to changes in the schedule.

E-mail:

Students are expected to have a working e-mail address capable of receiving individual messages and messages to the class as a whole. They are expected to check it regularly.

A Reminder:

Academic Honesty. All the work you submit in this course should be your own, and any sources of information consulted in the completion of that work – including but not limited to friends, other instructors, books, articles, and internet sources – must be acknowledged in the conventional manner (quotation marks, footnotes, bibliography, etc.). Any breach of the Academic Honesty Policy set forth in *The Source* and in the *Manual of Academic Policies and Procedures* will result in failure on the relevant assignment (with no possibility of revision and/or resubmission) and may be grounds for failure in the course. In extreme cases, academic dishonesty may result in suspension or dismissal from the university.

Schedule:

Fri., January 26. Introduction

Fri., February 2. Discuss *Romeo and Juliet*. Quiz.

Fri., February 9. View *Romeo and Juliet* (Cukor)

Fri., February 16. View *Romeo and Juliet* (Zeffirelli). Paper on *Romeo and Juliet* assigned.

Fri., February 23. Discuss *Romeo and Juliet*. Begin *Henry V*. Quiz on *Henry V*.

Fri., March 2. Paper on *Romeo and Juliet* due. Discuss *Henry V*.

Fri., March 9. View *Henry V* (Olivier). Quiz. Paper on *Henry V* assigned.

SPRING BREAK

Fri., March 23. View *Henry V* (Branagh).

Fri., March 30. Discuss *Henry V*. Begin *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Quiz

Fri., April 6. Paper on *Henry V* due. Discuss *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Fri., April 13. View *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Max Reinhardt)

Fri., April 20. View *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Michael Hoffman). Quiz. Paper on *Midsummer Night's Dream* assigned.

Fri., April 27. Discuss *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Fri., May 4. Paper on *Midsummer Night's Dream* due. Conclusion.