ENGLISH 254, CINEMA 254:  
Shakespeare on Film: Plays after 1600

Class:  
Fri. 1:30-4:30 (in Auerbach 323). 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: 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 (primarily Hamlet), 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 this play and its 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 must be purchased:  
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.

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. Grades will be based 15% on the first paper, 15% on the second, 30%  
on the final paper, 25% on the final exam, and 15% on participation. 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.  
3. There will also be occasional non-graded quizzes to review progress.  
4. Any of the above may change as the semester progresses, so please be alert to changes in the  
schedule.
SCHEDULE  English/Cinema 254  Shakespeare on Film  Spring 2005

Fridays 1:30 – 4:30

January 21  Introduction
January 28  The play: Acts 1 and 2
February 11  The play: Act 5
February 18  **Olivier (2 hrs. 35 mins.)**. Paper 1 due.
February 25  Olivier. Paper 2 assigned
March 4  **Zeffirelli (Mel Gibson) (2hrs. 15 mins.)** + discussion.
March 11  Zeffirelli. Paper 2 due.

**[March 25 Spring Break]**

April 1  **Branagh (4 hrs.).**
April 8  **Branagh (contd.)** + discussion. Final paper assigned.
April 15  Branagh
April 22  Filming Shakespeare: *Hamlet* and beyond
April 29  Conclusion. Final paper due.
HAMLET

This is a very rich history. Some of the highlights:


1908 Italy
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1909 France

1910 Italy. Dir. Mario Cesarini. Shortened version.

1910 Denmark
1910 UK
1910 France

1913 UK. Hamlet: Johnston Forbes-Robertson.

1914 Italy

1917 Italy. Largely complete. Hamlet: Ruggero Ruggeri.

1919 UK. Oh’Phelia. Animated cartoon burlesque of Hamlet.

1920 Germany. Directed by Sven Gade, with Asta Nielsen as Hamlet. Story quite radically adapted: Hamlet a girl raised as a boy.


1948 UK. Directed by Olivier, with Olivier in title role.

1952 Italy. In Italian.

1954 India. In Hindi?


1960 W Germany. Dir. Franz Peter Wirth. Hamlet: Maximilian Schell. In German?


1964 USA. Video. New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp


1965 India. *Shakespeare Wallah* (dir. James Ivory), with closet scene


1980 Netherlands.


1984 Sweden. TV. In Swedish.

1987 UK. Video. Cambridge Experimental Theatre


