

SYLLABUS 21 January 2005

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

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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:

Hamlet, ed. Robert Hapgood. Shakespeare in Production. Cambridge University Press.

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 4 The play: Acts 3 and 4. Paper 1 assigned.
- 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 18 **Excerpts from Kozintsev 1964, Richardson/Williamson 1969, Celestino Coronado 1976, Bennett/Jacobi (BBC) 1980, Almercyda 2000** + discussion.
- [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.

HAKESPEARE ON FILM, Spring 2005

HAMLET

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

1900. Silent. Sarah Bernhardt as Hamlet. Based on stage production. Emphasizing revenge theme.

1908 Italy
1908 Italy
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.

1947 UK. TV, dir. Basil Adams.

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

1952 Italy. In Italian.

1954 India. In Hindi?

1959 UK/USA. TV, dir. Ralph Nelson and Michael Benthall. Hamlet: John Neville.

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

1964 USSR. Dir. Grigori Kozintsev. Hamlet: Innokenti Smoktounovski. In Russian. Translated by Pasternak. Text much cut. Music by Shostakovich.

1964 UK. TV. *Hamlet at Elsinore*. Hamlet: Christopher Plummer. Horatio: Michael Caine. First TV play to be filmed entirely with outside-broadcast cameras working on location, at Elsinore. Music by William Walton.

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

1964 Ghana. *Hamile: The Tongo Hamlet*. Dir. Terry Bishop. Set in Tongo, home of the Frafra people in northern Ghana. Based on a stage production by the U of Ghana School of Music and Drama.

1964 USA. Dir. John Gielgud, stage; Bill Colleran, Electronovision. Hamlet: Richard Burton. Polonius: Hume Cronyn. Filmed using fifteen cameras covering two performances of the play in New York. An attempt actually to take the TV camera into the theatre.

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

1969 UK. Dir. Tony Richardson. Hamlet: Nicol Williamson. Claudius: Anthony Hopkins. Based on a production at the Round House, and filmed on the stage there.

1970 USA. Hallmark Hall of Fame. Dir. Peter Wood. Adapted by John Barton. Hamlet: Richard Chamberlain. Polonius: Michael Redgrave. Regency setting. Filmed over six months at Raby Castle, in Durham. Chamberlain had earlier played Hamlet with the Birmingham Rep.

1970 Brazil. *Hamlet: A Heranca*. In Portuguese.

1972 UK/USA. Dir. David Giles. TV. Hamlet: Ian McKellen.

1973 Canada. Dir. René Bonnière, Stephen Bush. Hamlet: Rick McKenna. Ophelia: Linda Certain. Claudius: Dan Hennessey. Gertrude: Becke Keller.

1976 UK. Dir. Celestino Coronada. Hamlet and Laertes: Anthony and David Meyer. Ophelia and Gertrude: Helen Mirren. Polonius: Quentin Crisp. Abbreviated version of the play intended to see Hamlet as a split personality. Shot in a week.

1980 Netherlands.

1980 UK/USA. BBC. Dir. Rodney Bennett. Hamlet: Derek Jacobi. Gertrude: Claire Bloom. Claudius: Patrick Stewart. Polonius: Eric Porter.

1984 Sweden. TV. In Swedish.

1987 UK. Video. Cambridge Experimental Theatre

1990 UK. Dir. Franco Zeffirelli. Hamlet: Mel Gibson. Ophelia: Helena Bonham-Carter. Gertrude: Glenn Close. Claudius: Alan Bates.

1990 USA. TV adaptation of New York Shakespeare production, dir. Kevin Kline & Kirk Browning.

Hamlet: Kevin Kline. Ophelia: Diane Venora. Gertrude: Dana Ivey. Claudius: Brian Murray. Polonius: Josef Sommer. Horatio: Peter Francis James. Laertes: Michael Cumpsty.

1993 UK. Video recording of RSC production at the Barbican. Dir. Adrian Noble. Hamlet: Kenneth Branagh. Gertrude: Jane Lapotaire.

1996 UK. Dir. Kenneth Branagh. Hamlet: Kenneth Branagh. Ophelia: Kate Winslett. Gertrude: Julie Christie. Claudius: Derek Jacobi.

2000 USA. Dir. Michael Almereyda. Hamlet: Ethan Hawke. Ophelia: Julia Styles. Gertrude: Diane Venora. Claudius: Kyle MacLachlan. Laertes: Liev Schreiber.