

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 4270	Course Title: Research Seminar	Date of Offering: Sept 8- Nov 31 2022
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: Lecture/discussion
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Sexuality and Shakespeare

This course looks at the topic of sexuality and its relationship to Shakespeare's work. Most of the course is academic in focus but there are two practical exercises.

The purpose is not to discern what Shakespeare's sexuality was; this would be impossible as (for instance) there was no such category as 'homosexuality' during Shakespeare's time, there were only same sex acts. However, starting with *Venus and Adonis* (a controversial, pornographic poem) we will examine what it's like to 'read our own sexuality into' Shakespeare's work, in the context of Stephen Guy-Bray's concept of 'homoerotic space.' We will move on to *Richard II* — often interpreted as a gay character. Finally we will examine the notion of the gendering of style through works by Lyly, Barthes, Baldwin and Cixous, Baraka and de Beauvoir.

In the first 8 weeks each class will consist of two short lectures by the instructor, each followed by discussions. The last 5 classes will be devoted to students preparing and delivering 1 seminar per class on topics provided — students will choose their topic on a first come first served basis.

There are two opportunities for praxis. There will be a chance for students to learn to 'write like Shakespeare' by writing and performing (in a youtube video) a monologue in the style of Shakespeare's 'to be or not to be.' Also, as part of each student's seminar presentation they must perform a relevant Shakespearean monologue on youtube video.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

- Weekly response and questions: 25%
- Questions and comments on research seminars: 25% (
- Seminar 10%
- Exercise in Rhetoric and video performance: 5%
- Final Essay: 20%
- Participation: 15%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
Richard II (Folger) please use HARDCOPY!!!
Shakespeare's Sonnets and Poems (Folger) please use HARDCOPY!!!
All other theoretical texts, plays and poems will be made available in course link and in Ares

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.