

## 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

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| Course Code: THST 4290 | Course Title: Research Seminar II | Date of Offering: W/22 |
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| Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert | Course Format: lecture/discussion |
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#### 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, Wilde, Barthes, Savran, 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: 20%
- Video answers to weekly questions: 10%
- Questions and comments on research seminars: 12%
- Seminar 18% Each student will deliver a 20 minute research seminar presentation, and show a 2-4 minute video in which they perform (only memorise if you wish) a monologue from Shakespeare that is relevant to their seminar topic (they must explain the relevance). This will be followed by a 20 minute question and answer period led by the student.
- Exercise in Rhetoric and video performance: 10% (due on March 2, please hand in on course link and also bring to class on March 2)
- Final Essay: 15%
- Participation: 15%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Shakespeare, William. *Richard II* (Folger)

All other sources will be available on course link and 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): FACE TO FACE

\*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar 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>.