

# EN3D7-30 Shakespeare: Text and Performance, Now and Then

**26/27**

**Department**

English and Comparative Literary Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Stephen Purcell

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

18 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

EN3D7-30 Shakespeare: Text and Performance, Now and Then

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

- To survey and analyse a range of early modern plays, primarily by Shakespeare, but also by some of his most significant contemporaries
- To study these plays in their historical context and as texts for performance, which involves reference to the original staging conventions and to modern productions. Where possible, plays are studied in performance – on stage or on the screen.
- To consider the relationship between dramatic form, intellectual debate and cultural conditions, as reflected in the plays in question.
- To introduce students to a number of theories of the drama, with reference to their practical application in playtexts and production.
- To develop students' ability to analyze dramatic texts both as literature and as texts for performance.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

### Unit 1 (Weeks 1-5)

Shakespeare: Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Titus Andronicus.

Marlowe: Tamburlaine the Great, Part One; Dr Faustus (Read the B-Text)

Lecturers and seminars range across these plays in the first five. After reading week we will be adding (in most weeks) one new play a week in the following three Units:

### UNIT 2 (weeks 7-10, Autumn Term): KINDS OF HISTORY

7 - Richard II

8 - Henry IV, Part 1

9 - Antony and Cleopatra

10 - King Lear

### UNIT 3 (weeks 1-4, Spring Term): COMEDIES

1 - Two Gentlemen of Verona

2 - Twelfth Night

3 - Measure for Measure

4- Troilus and Cressida

### UNIT 4 (week 5, and 7-10, Spring Term): TRAGEDY TO/AND ROMANCE

5 - Othello

7 - Macbeth

8 - Coriolanus

9 - The Winter's Tale

10 - Tempest

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Formulate their own essay titles and creative projects in a way that prepares them for the type of independent research undertaken at postgraduate level
- Have consolidated their skills in reading narrative, poetry and drama
- Comment illuminatingly on a passage of dramatic poetry
- Analyse the dramatic structure, appearance and effect of a scene
- Comment on the ideas in a play and the way they are presented
- Know enough about Elizabethan and Jacobean conditions of performance to think about how the dramatists use the resources of the stage and how the ensemble nature of theatrical companies influenced play composition and production
- Have sufficient experience of live and film performances of the plays to be able to talk about the impact of particular scenes today
- Know a group of plays well enough to understand how the separate scenes and speeches of the play contribute to the whole
- Know some plays by Shakespeare, Marlowe and Jonson/Webster/Middleton so that they can address the issue of connections and dependencies between them

- Have some critical awareness of the traditions of Shakespeare criticism
- Use their knowledge of Shakespeare to think about problems which concern them
- Have the chance to respond creatively to the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries and to submit this response in the form of a creative project to be assessed
- Understand how some of the major issues and themes dramatised in Shakespeare's plays – love, war, sexuality, religion, law, civilization, race, etc – function in an early modern context while continuing to challenge readers and spectators today.

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

## Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	36 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	228 hours (76%)
Total	300 hours

### Private study description

Reading & research

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

## Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Close reading exercise	40%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Essay OR Creative Project + Reflective Essay	60%		Yes (extension)
5000-word essay OR Creative Project plus a 2000-2500 word reflective essay			

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Written Feedback

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)