CL 499.01 SHAKESPEARE IN ADAPTATION

MW 678678

PS: MW 99

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Course description:

This course examines Shakespeare's plays through the lens of adaptation, focusing primarily on film while also considering theatrical reworkings, translations, and intercultural responses. Each play is first studied in relation to the Elizabethan stage, its material conditions, and early modern social concerns, before being analyzed through its later transformations across media, genres, and cultures.

Drawing on approaches from film studies, postcolonial theory, and gender studies, the course explores how adaptation reshapes characterization, narrative, and ideology. Attention is given to formal elements such as setting, performance, casting, music, costume, and visual design, and to how these elements respond to changing historical and political contexts.

Methodology:

First block in the week will be used for a closed reading of the text, earmarking moments that the class think would lend themselves to adaptation to different genres, especially cinema. Second block will focus on analysis of videos and stills (according to availability) of key settings, casting, music and costume from the selected films, with a view to assessing if the various ethos/pathos observed in the text has been successfully carried over to the screen.

Readings will be made available on moodle.

Assessment:

A written essay exam on the 4th Week: 50%

A written essay final on the 8th Week: 50%

Optional Creative Adaptation Project for end of term

Weekly Course Plan:

Week	Date	Subject	Questions and Articles	Adaptations
0-1	24th June 29 June- 1 July	Introduction to Shakespeare and his plays	Elizabethan stage and concerns Modes of adaptation: film, play, translation 'Global Shakespeares, Affective Histories, Cultural Memories' Jyotsna G. Singh and Abdulhamit Arvas	Emma Smith's Lectures: https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/approaching-shakespeare

			A Theory of Adaptation, Linda Hutcheon -Preface and Introduction	
1	6-8 July	Hamlet	Where is Elsinore?	Haider (2014), film by Vishal Bhardwaj https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKQNhS-3h-4 Hamlet (1996), film by Kenneth Branagh https://m.ok.ru/video/7252625787590 Hamlet (1990), film by Zefirelli https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GH9-DV1brsQ (in Spanish) Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (1966), Tom Stoppard
2	13 July	Romeo and Juliet	Musical to film	Romeo and Juliet (1996), film by Baz Luhrman https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9t536q West Side Story (1961), film by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise https://m.ok.ru/video/3213736741570 (French, songs in English)
3	20-22 July	The Tempest	Postcolonial concerns Posthuman concerns	A Tempest (1969), play by Aime Cesaire The Tempest (2010), film by Julie Taymour https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcnp8apSJ1k The Tempest, film by Derek Jarman

				https://m.ok.ru/video/3571169168031
4	27-29 July	Othello	Racism Misogyny	A Play About a Handkerchief (1993), Paula Vogel Othello (1995), film by Oliver Parker https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9ljuq0 Othello (1951), film by Orson Wells https://m.ok.ru/video/1071806679732 Arabın İntikamı*
5	3-5 August	Richard III	Treatment of historical figures Political drama	Looking for Richard (1996), film by Al Pacino https://ok.ru/video/2101063214474 Richard III (1995), film by Richard Loncraine https://ok.ru/video/6719956716190
6	10-12 August	Taming of the Shrew	metatheatre	Taming of the Shrew (1967), film by Zefirelli https://m.ok.ru/video/8044941937350 Kiss Me Kate (1953), film by George Sidney https://m.ok.ru/video/985857460934