English 332: Advanced Shakespeare Studies

Hamlets

Professor Newstok
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Office: Palmer 306

Fall 2012
MW 3:00-4:15pm
Palmer 203
Office hours: Fridays 2-5pm, or by appointment (please email)

Course description

*Hamlet* is a play that’s haunted by its sources, and a play that’s since haunted centuries of productions and adaptations. This wide-ranging advanced seminar in literary studies will commence by closely examining the cultural materials that Shakespeare re-shaped for his play. We will devote careful attention to reading, in parallel, multiple quarto editions published during Shakespeare's lifetime, as well as the posthumous Folio version. We will then survey four centuries of engagement with this play, including Goethe’s *Wilhelm Meister*; late Victorian performances with female leads; modernist revisions or deflections of the play (“I am not Prince Hamlet”); prose rewritings and spin-offs; and contemporary cinematic versions. As an advanced seminar in the English department, weekly writing assignments will be required, culminating in a major final research paper based on close textual analysis and historical, cultural, and critical contextualization. **Students will be required to participate in a Rhodes symposium on global adaptations of *Hamlet* on October 5.** Prerequisite: any 200-level literature course (230 or 285 preferred).

Required Texts

- Miola, ed., *Hamlet*
- Bruster, *To Be or Not to Be*
- Bevington, *Murder Most Foul*
- Frequent handouts and considerable independent research

Recommended bookmarks on your computer

- Early English Books Online (EEBO): http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home
- Lexicons of Early Modern English (LEME): http://leme.library.utoronto.ca/
- World Shakespeare Bibliography (WSB): http://www.worldshakesbib.org
- Shakespeare Searches: http://www.rhymezone.com/shakespeare/
- Rhodes “Global Hamlets” symposium: http://www.rhodes.edu/hamlet
- Shakespeare at Rhodes: http://www.rhodes.edu/shakespeare/
- Shakespeare quartos archive: http://www.quartos.org
- Folger images related to “Hamlet”: http://tinyurl.com/FolgerHamlet
- BBC interviews: http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/hamlet/
- Hamlet citations: http://www.hyperhamlet.unibas.ch
- Hamlet Haven: http://www.hamlethaven.com
- Hamlet on the Ramparts: http://shea.mit.edu/ramparts/
- Project Hamlet: http://www.project-hamlet.info/courtyard.html
- RSC Hamlet: http://www.rsc.org.uk/explore/hamlet/
- Nick Hutchison: http://nickhutchison.com/actor.shtml
- Alex Huang: http://alexanderhuang.org
- Margaret Litvin: http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9582.html
- David Schalkwyk: http://tinyurl.com/HamletDreams
Schedule—subject to revision, per seminar interest and instructor’s discretion

Aug. 20  
**Introductions**
Bevington Introduction

Aug. 27  
**Sources—Saxo-Grammaticus; Belleforest**
Bevington 1

*** Sept. 3, Labor Day—no class Monday ***

Sept. 5  
**Literary contexts/ analogues**
Pair handout

Sept. 10  
**First Quarto vs. Q2/ Folio**
Parallel reading
Bevington 3&4; Miola textual notes/appendices 131-50

Sept. 17  
**17th/18th c. Hamlets**
Explore one performer/ edition/ adaptation
Bevington chapter 4; Norton criticism 231-44

Sept. 24  
**19th c. Hamlet without “Hamlet”**
Hamlet and “philosophy”
de Grazia (handout); Bevington chapter 5; Norton criticism 245-54

Oct. 1  
**Globe, “globe,” globalization**
Delve into one national tradition
Bevington 7; Bosman; Huang; Litvin; Schalkwyk (handouts); Norton afterlives 376-90

*** Oct. 5, 1-5pm “Global Hamlets” symposium (Blount Auditorium) ***

Oct. 8  
**Slow reading**
Responses to symposium
Hutchison visit; Bruster book

*** Oct. 15, Fall break—no class Monday ***

Oct. 17  
**Hamlet on screen**
Work on one cinematic adaptation
Bevington 7; Burt (handout)

Oct. 22  
**Hamlet in theory**
Report on one critical approach
Lupton; Harris; Kottman

Oct. 29  
**Hamlet’s mothers and others**
Reading gender back into the play

Nov. 5  
**Hamlet spin-offs/ afterlives**
Three proposals

Nov. 12  
**Consultation with Professor Newstok**
REVISED proposal

Nov. 19  
**Library research session**
Annotated bibliography

*** Nov. 21, Thanksgiving—no class Wednesday ***

Nov. 26  
**Peer review**
FULL Draft

Dec. 3  
**In-class presentations**
Handout with primary & critical passages

Dec. 10  
**Revised final paper due**
Requirements

Engagement (25%) is mandatory, and is broadly conceived to include active participation (listening and responding to your peers as well as the professor), consistent preparation of course readings, enthusiasm for assignments, collaboration with your peers, and respect for the course.

I presume that English majors will habitually read and re-read assignments thoroughly in advance of discussion, arrive on time to class, and participate thoughtfully every day of the semester. As we meet only twice a week, it is particularly important that you dedicate yourself to attending every class session.

Assignments (25%) involve weekly exercises designed to help prepare you for your final paper. Unless otherwise indicated, please submit these via email on Sundays by 5pm. No late work—there is not enough time in the semester to fall behind with your writing. We will discuss requirements for these assignments in further detail as they approach:

Final paper (50%) involve engaging in a critical dialogue with other readers (critics) in the history of Hamlet, leading to a 15-page research paper on a topic of your own choice. You are encouraged to ground at least part of your paper in pre-1800 materials.

Grading: A ‘C’ represents satisfactory work; a ‘B’ represents good work; a ‘B+’ represent very good work; and an ‘A-’ (and the occasional ‘A’) represent extraordinary achievement. This holds true for all of your assignments in the course.

Policies: As always, please observe and respect Rhodes guidelines regarding the Honor Code; academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and an Honor Code violation (including plagiarism) will be grounds for failure in the course. You essay for this course must consist of original work not previously submitted to another course. Respect the integrity of the course; please turn off cell phones and remove hats before entering the classroom; please do not eat during class. Treat email exchanges with one another and with the professor as formally composed correspondence. As ever, please observe the standard policies which apply to all courses in the English Department.