

Shakespeare and Film

EN 3523

Dr. Anderson

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15



The history of Shakespeare in America can be told through the history of Hollywood. In this course intended for students from any major, we will examine many of Shakespeare's most famous plays through their reproduction on screen: Why was Ethan Hawke's portrayal of the character Hamlet in the year 2000 so

appealing to an end of the millennium audience? Why does *Titus Andronicus*, Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy, lend itself to an avant-garde adaptation from Julie Taymor, the director of the Broadway version of Disney's *The Lion King*? What do Leonardo DiCaprio, Josh Harnett, Claire Danes, or Julia Stiles have to do with classic Shakespeare? What might a Shakespearean adaptation look like when all evidence of Shakespeare has been purged from the production? These are some of the questions that we will address in seminar. Among the plays that students will read include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Othello*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Tempest*.

Students will write two papers between 5-7 pages and take two exams. Some films will be shown at night. Viewing each film is required for successful completion of the course.



**"Sin from my lips? Oh, trespass sweetly urged!
Give me my sin again" (*Romeo and Juliet* 1.5.76-77).**