

Shakespeare after 1600

English 6/4513
MTWTHF 10:00
Anderson

What happens to Shakespeare after 1599? The playgoers who went to Liberties of London at the turn of the century witnessed some of Shakespeare's most powerful plays, as well as some of his most problematic. In this course we will read many of the classic tragedies and comedies from the last half of Shakespeare's life, but we will also consider why plays such as *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest* resist facile categorization. As we read Shakespeare's late works, we will consider questions that have helped shape the nature of Shakespeare criticism over the last twenty years. Specifically, we will examine how Shakespeare's late plays constitute an aesthetic response to questions of power, politics, sexuality, and race.

Undergraduate students will take two tests and write two papers (between 6-10 pages) during the summer semester. They will also participate in a collaborative presentation on a play of their choosing. Graduate students will write one short 5-6 page close-analysis and produce a 20-page scholarly essay on a single play at the end of the course. They will also take a final exam and make a formal conference style presentation on their research topic. Graduate students will also maintain a scholarly reading journal.

I have ordered *The Norton Shakespeare, Volume 2: Later Plays*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt (ISBN 9780393931457) from the bookstore, but you can use another scholarly edition should you have one already.

Texts (subject to change):

Othello

Macbeth

Hamlet

Anthony and Cleopatra

Coriolanus

The Winter's Tale

The Tempest

Cymbeline

