Shakespeare in his Time
Reading List, 2019

Course convenor: Dr. Chris Stamatakis, c.stamatakis@ucl.ac.uk

The purpose of this course is to build on your undergraduate study of Shakespeare by developing your knowledge of his works in relation to the contexts of his time. Each seminar will consider a work or works by Shakespeare in relation to an aspect of historical context, which might include: related works by his contemporaries; authorial collaboration; literary sources and traditions; political, religious, social, intellectual, or cultural developments; early textual history; or early modern performance practices. Your coursework essay should also discuss a work or works by Shakespeare in relation to some aspect of his time.

In preparation for the course you should read as wide a selection as possible from Shakespeare’s plays and poems. You may wish to buy a copy of the Complete Works, or you may already own one from your undergraduate days. The department recommends the Riverside Complete Shakespeare, the Arden Shakespeare Complete Works, the Oxford Complete Shakespeare, or the Norton Shakespeare. UCL Library has good holdings both of these and of single-play editions.

You should also make use of the reading list below. It begins with a general section (pp. 1-3), which you should use for selective browsing according to your interests, and to support your essay work. After this (pp. 3-8) you will find lists of preparatory reading for each seminar. For queries about these individual reading lists, please contact the tutor whose name is shown against the seminar title.

Please note that for each seminar you must read in advance the specified literary work(s) by Shakespeare or his contemporaries. In each case we recommend a particular edition whose Introduction and notes will be particularly useful to you, so do make use of these as well as reading the text of the work. Sometimes required critical reading is also indicated; this too must be done in advance of the seminar. Shortly before each seminar the tutor may contact you with more detailed preparation instructions. You are also encouraged to browse in the list of suggested reading for each seminar, especially if you plan to write an essay on the topic concerned.

----------------------------

General Reading

Bate, Jonathan, and Dora Thornton (eds), Shakespeare: Staging the World (London: British Museum, 2012)
Briggs, Julia, This Stage-Play World: English Literature and its Background, 1580-1625 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983)

On Shakespeare’s life:
Weis, René, Shakespeare Revealed: A Biography (London: John Murray, 2007)
On Shakespeare in relation to his contemporaries:

On sources:

On early textual history:

On early modern performance practices:

On Shakespeare’s London:

On Shakespeare and religious contexts:

New historicist approaches:

E-resources available from UCL Library:

From [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/electronic-resources/databases/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/electronic-resources/databases/):
- BBC Shakespeare Archive
- Drama Online – includes Arden Shakespeare editions
- Early English Books Online (EEBO)
- Historical Texts
- Oxford Scholarly Editions Online
- Shakespeare Collection
- World Shakespeare Bibliography
A longer reading list will be provided in the seminar.
2. *Titus Andronicus* and Ovid (Dr Chris Stamatakis, c.stamatakis@ucl.ac.uk)

**Recommended editions:**


**Required critical reading:**


**Suggested reading:**


Electronic text (from Perseus):
http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3atext%3a1999.02.0074

3. *The Body in Venus and Adonis* and Marlowe’s *Hero and Leander* (Dr Eric Langley, eric.langley@ucl.ac.uk)

**Recommended editions:**
*Venus and Adonis* in *Shakespeare’s Poems*, ed. Katherine Duncan-Jones and H.R. Woudhuysen (Arden)


**Required critical reading:**
Please read ONE of the following introductory chapters:


**Suggested reading:**

- Stanivukovic, Goran V. (ed.), *Ovid and the Renaissance Body* (Toronto: UTP, 2001)

**4. Shakespeare and Renaissance Economics: The Merchant of Venice (Dr Eric Langley, eric.langley@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Recommended edition:**


**Required critical reading:**


**Suggested reading:**


**5. Renaissance Sexualities: Performing Desire in Twelfth Night (Dr Rachel Holmes)**

**Recommended editions:**

Required critical reading:

Suggested further reading:

[Reading Week]

6. Legendary Lovers in Print and Performance: *Troilus and Cressida* (Dr Lucy Razzall)

Recommended editions:

Required critical reading:
Joseph Navitsky, ‘Scurrilous Jests and Retaliatory Abuse in Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida*’, *English Literary Renaissance* 42 (2012), 3-31

Suggested reading:
George Chapman, trans., *Seaven bookes of the Iliades of Homere, prince of poets* (London: John Windet, 1598); EEBO link [here](#)
Hester Lees-Jeffries, ‘A Subtle Point: Sleeves, Tents, and ‘Ariachne’s broken woof’ (Again)’, *Shakespeare Survey* 62 (2009), 92-10
7. Shakespeare’s Legal Thinking: *Othello*, Proof, and Persuasion (Dr Rachel Holmes)

**Recommended editions:**

**Required critical reading:**

**Suggested further reading:**

8. Shakespeare’s Sonnets and Renaissance Arts of Ornament (Dr Lucy Razzall)

**Recommended edition:**

**Required critical reading:**

**Suggested reading:**
9. Cymbeline and Late-Play Dramaturgy (Prof. Peter Swaab)

**Recommended editions:**

**Suggested reading:**
Bullough, Geoffrey (ed.), *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare* (8 vols, 1957-1975, section on *Cymbeline* in vol 8)
King, Ros, *Cymbeline: Constructions of Britain* (Routledge, 2005)
Maley, Willy (ed.), *Celtic Shakespeare: the bard and the borderers* (Ashgate, 2013)
McDonald, Russ, *Shakespeare’s Late Style* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), chapter 4
Shaw, George Bernard, *Cymbeline Refinished* (1937), available in various print and online editions

10. Shakespeare and Co-authorship: The Two Noble Kinsmen (Prof. Peter Swaab)

**Recommended editions:**
Suggested reading:
David Carnegie and Gary Taylor (eds), The Quest for Cardenio: Shakespeare, Fletcher, Cervantes, and the Lost Play (OUP, 2012)
Gregory Doran, Shakespeare’s Lost Play: In Search of Cardenio (London: Nick Hern Books, 2012)
Jonathan Hope, The Authorship of Shakespeare’s Plays: A Socio-linguistic Study (CUP, 1994)
Jennifer Richards and James Knowles (eds), Shakespeare’s Late Plays: New Readings (Edinburgh UP, 1999)
Laurie Shannon, Sovereign Amity: Figures of Friendship in Shakespearean Contexts (2002), chapter 3
Alan Sinfield, ‘Cultural Materialism and Intertextuality: The Limits of Queer Reading in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Two Noble Kinsmen’, Shakespeare Survey 56 (2003), 67-78