

Department of English & Writing Studies

Adapting Shakespeare, or “The Shakespeare’s Mine”

English 3331G (001)

Winter 2022

This syllabus is still in draft form, and may be subject to change.

COVID Statement

Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Western policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or religious reasons must seek formal accommodation through Accessible Education at aew@uwo.ca.

Students are expected not to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Department, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Instructor: Dr M. J. Kidnie (I prefer M.J., but you can also call me Dr or Prof Kidnie)

Pronouns: she/her

Email: mjkidnie@uwo.ca

Office: UC 4420

Office hours: TU & TH 3:30-4:30 and by arrangement

Course Location: UC 3110 (Conron Hall)

Course Date/Time: TU 2:30-3:30 & TH 1:30-3:30

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Shakespeare invented few of the plots of his plays; instead he used others' writing. Later artists (including stage and film directors, playwrights, and novelists) have likewise drawn on Shakespeare's plays as inspiration. This half-course explores this range of "Shakespearean adaptation" through close study of two or three major plays.

Land Acknowledgement

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First

Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will have attained:

- an increasingly advanced understanding of Shakespeare's drama
- an understanding of debates on the nature of adaptation
- a developing facility with a variety of approaches, theories and techniques which can be applied to the study of dramatic literature
- proficiency with the essential tools of literary scholarship (library catalogues, citation and content databases)
- an introduction to specialized research tools and their uses
- a developing ability to analyze a piece of literature within its specific cultural context
- a developing ability to apply a variety of scholarly or theoretical approaches to the analysis of texts
- the opportunity to develop a clear, concise and compelling prose style, free of technical errors
- the opportunity to develop an ability to structure a complex and engaging argument
- the opportunity to develop the capacity to engage in class discussions and respond meaningfully to lecture material and peer discussion while using textual evidence as support

Course Materials for purchase (texts are available at the bookstore)

- Keith Hamilton Cobb, *American Moor*
- Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*
- Anne Tyler, *Vinegar Girl*
- Shakespeare, *Othello*, ed. Norman Sanders
- Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*, ed. Ann Thompson

Materials available through Western

- David Garrick, *Catherine and Petruchio* (available in OWL Resources)
- Charles Marowitz, *Taming of the Shrew* (available in OWL Resources)

Films (screened in class)

- *10 Things I Hate about You* (1999, dir. Gil Junger)
- *Stage Beauty* (2004, dir. Richard Eyre). Available to buy or rent through VUDU (<https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/details/Stage-Beauty/7530>)

Course expectations

Attendance at every class is mandatory, but please do *not* come to class if you are feeling ill.

Submission of Assignments

All submission dates are listed below. Submit written coursework on the due date through our OWL website AND in the English and Writing Studies dropbox (or you can hand it to me in class on the due date). The dropbox is located in the hall outside UC 2401.

The secretary will date-stamp your work and put it in my pigeonhole. Anything submitted to the dropbox before 8:30am will be date-stamped with the *previous* day's date. You must also submit

any late or early work through the OWL website, which will also provide you with a date-stamp. Please note that in case of uncertainty, the online OWL date-stamp will be taken as final.

LATE PAPER POLICY

If you submit a paper after the due date, the paper will be counted as late. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day that it is late. Note that when a paper is late, every day counts (including weekends), but that the arrangements for date-stamping essays in the Department of English essay box are accepted for late essays. Extensions on any assignment will only be considered if supported by a request for accommodation sent by students' Academic Counsellors in their home faculty (see below, "Accommodation").

Methods of Evaluation (assignment descriptions are below)

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

600-800 word response paper – 15%

750-word "Treatment" (rationale, explanation of why and how – concept – 7-min "pitch") – 15%

2000-word term paper – 30%

2-hour exam – 40%

Description of Assignments

Participation: Based on oral contributions to class (comments, questions, contributions to group work; marks are higher for students who engage knowledgeably with course materials).

Conron Hall has poor acoustics (not helped by masking), but the university is purchasing a boom that will allow us to pass around a hand-held mic. If you have anxiety about speaking in class, please speak to me separately.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies for adjudication.

Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade_

TEACHING PROGRAMME

This class outline is subject to change. Students are expected to stay abreast of coursework through regular attendance at class.

JANUARY

- 4 Introduction
- 6 Shakespeare, *Taming of the Shrew*

- 11 Shakespeare, *Taming of the Shrew*
- 13 Shakespeare, *Taming of the Shrew*

- 18 Shakespeare, *Taming of the Shrew*
- 20 Garrick, *Catherine and Petruchio*

- 25 Garrick, *Catherine and Petruchio*
- 27 *10 Things I Hate about You* (screening in class)

FEBRUARY

- 1 *10 Things I Hate about You*
- 3 Charles Marowitz, *Taming of the Shrew*

- 8 Anne Tyler, *Vinegar Girl*
- 10 Anne Tyler, *Vinegar Girl* and Shakespeare, *Othello*

- 15 Shakespeare, *Othello*
- 17 Shakespeare, *Othello*

READING WEEK – February 19-27

MARCH

- 1 Shakespeare, *Othello*
- 3 *Stage Beauty* (screening in class)

- 8 *Stage Beauty*
- 10 *Stage Beauty*

- 15 Cobb, *American Moor*
- 17 Cobb, *American Moor*

- 22 Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*
- 24 Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*

- 29 Exam review
- 31 Exam review

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to

the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.