

Full module title: Shakespeare and Performance		
Module code: 4ELIT005W	Credit level: 4	Length:one semester
UK credit value: 20	ECTS value: 10	
Faculty and Department: SSH, English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies		
Module Leader(s):		
Extension:	Email:	
Host course and course leader: BA English Literature / Nigel Mapp		
Status: Option		
Subject Board: UG English		
Pre-requisites: None	Co-requisites: None	
Study abroad: Accepted		
Special features: N/A		
Access restrictions: N/A		
Are the module learning outcomes delivered, assessed or supported through an arrangement with an organisation(s) other than the University of Westminster? No		
Summary of module content:		
<p>The module samples a generic mix of Shakespeare's plays and provides a broad introduction to contemporary Shakespeare study. The specific forms of Shakespearean drama are explored not only in their early modern contexts, including the performance practices of the time, but also in terms of other key approaches and topics in current Shakespeare performance, criticism and theory.</p>		

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to analyse with appropriate technical terms the formal characteristics of Shakespearean tragedy, comedy, history, and romance;
- demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social and historical purposes to which different formal characteristics are put;
- demonstrate an understanding of the relevance of early modern performance practice to the analysis of dramatic forms and their larger purposes;
- demonstrate a critical grasp of the main movements and interests of modern and contemporary Shakespeare criticism and its relation to key developments in literary theory.

Course outcomes the module contributes to:

Upon successful completion of the level 4 students will:

- demonstrate recognition of the characteristics of different literary forms and genres and understand the significance of these characteristics;
- demonstrate a competence in discussing works in their social and historical context and in the context of theoretical debates.

Indicative syllabus content

What are the forms we call Shakespearean tragedy, comedy, and history?

What are early modern theatrical practices?

How do Shakespeare's plays dramatise their narrative sources?

What are the key social and political issues with which these dramatic innovations engage?

What are the main controversies in modern and current Shakespeare criticism?

How can literary theory guide a response to issues of gender, authority, language, performance, and other aspects of these plays?

Teaching and learning methods

The module comprises 12 weeks of seminars. Its basic pattern is to take two weeks per play and it aims to use the first week in each case to discuss specific formal and performance issues while using the second to profile a key critical controversy, or approach. This is reflected in the set reading for the second week's work on each play, which will include directed use of online resources such as Early English Books Online. The module will also make use of DVDs and the Globe Player platform in order to examine the possibilities of contemporary and 'period' performance.

Activity type	Category	Student learning and teaching hours*
Lecture	Scheduled	
Seminar	Scheduled	24
Tutorial	Scheduled	
Project supervisor	Scheduled	
Demonstration	Scheduled	
Practical Classes and workshops	Scheduled	
Supervised time in studio/workshop	Scheduled	
Fieldwork	Scheduled	
External visits	Scheduled	
Tutorial		
Work based learning	Scheduled	
Total Scheduled		24
Placement	Placement	
Independent reading of essential texts	Independent	70
Independent further reading	Independent	36
Preparation for and writing of assessments - Critical Analysis - Essay	Independent	20 50
Total student learning and teaching hours		200

*the hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

Assessment rationale

The assessment consists of one critical analysis (1,000 words, 30%) given towards the middle of the semester and one essay (2,000 words, 70%) with a submission date at the end of semester. The critical analysis can be selected as a synoptic assessment with the tutorial module (4ELIT01) and will be based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and the student's engagement with a specific Shakespeare performance, whether as live or recorded theatre, or as film. It is designed to draw together the early themes of the modules by enabling students to demonstrate their developing sense of the characteristics of literary language and dramatic form and the historical and critical issues that are opened up through such analysis or performance. The essay allows students to synthesise work across the module by developing an argument, informed by specific formal and historical analysis, which articulates and examines its own place in current academic discussions of Shakespeare.

Assessment criteria

Detailed and specific criteria for each assessment element are provided under 'Assessment Criteria' on the Blackboard site for this module.

The critical analysis assesses to what extent the student has demonstrated, first, the ability to describe accurately and analyse critically the formal, linguistic, and performance characteristics of a Shakespeare play, second, to understand the critical and historical significance of such analysis, and third on the use of the appropriate scholarly conventions. The essay will assess to what extent the student has demonstrated the ability to analyse dramatic forms and practices both in relation to wider social and political questions and to some main currents in Shakespeare scholarship and theory.

Assessment methods and weightings

Assessment name	Weighting %	Qualifying mark %	Qualifying set	Assessment type
CW1	30	n/a	n/a	Critical analysis (synoptic with 4ELIT01)
CW2	70	n/a	n/a	Essay

Synoptic assessment

The critical analysis is synoptic with 4ELIT01 for single honours students.

Essential reading list

Texts by William Shakespeare (any good edition):

The Taming of the Shrew

Macbeth

Twelfth Night

Henry IV, Part 1

Hamlet

The Winter's Tale

Date of initial validation: 2015

Dates of approved modifications:

Date of re-validation/review: