



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Shakespeare on Film

Course Code	L_ELBALES106
Credits	6
Period	P5+6
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Examiner	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Teaching Staff	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Practical

Course Objective

Students become acquainted with the study of identity representation in Shakespeare's plays and their film adaptations.

By the end of the course, students can:

- Closely read the selected primary texts, i.e., sonnets, plays, and film adaptations.
- Explain the concepts and arguments put forward in the selected secondary literature.
- Do all this in clear and concise written English.

Course Content

Central to this course is the question: How does the representation of identity (mainly in terms of gender, ethnicity, and sexuality) shift from Shakespeare's plays to their film adaptations?

Topics and plays/film adaptations discussed in previous years include:

- Gender dynamics in *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare, 1595).
- Gender dynamics in *Shakespeare in Love* (John Madden, 1998) and Shakespeare's sonnets (1609).
- The representation of ethnicity in *West Side Story* (Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins, 1961).
- The portrayal of sexuality in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare, 1595).
- The portrayal of sexuality in *Were the World Mine* (Tom Gustafson, 2008).

Both topics and plays/film adaptations are subject to change.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

- We meet once a week for four hours.
- Attendance is mandatory.
- Meetings are held on campus; no hybrid alternative is offered.
- Each meeting consists of group discussions, exam instruction/practice, and a lecture portion.
- Prior to each meeting, students complete a Canvas assignment.
- Devices with access to social media (this includes laptops) are not allowed in class. If an exception needs to be made for medical reasons, students must contact the academic advisor prior to the start of the course.
- There will be no meetings in period 6.

Method of Assessment

- Successful completion of the course is contingent on timely submission of all Canvas assignments and attendance at all meetings.

- The full final grade for the course is based on a take-home exam consisting of short essay questions. The take-home exam will be held over three days in week 1 of period 6 (the week of 2 June 2025). **English writing proficiency is a key aspect of the assessment.**

Entry Requirements

Students must have participated in the course Literary Theory (L_ELBALES101). No exceptions will be made.

Literature

To be announced in the course syllabus, which will be posted on Canvas well in advance of the start of the course.

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is part of the Bachelor's program Literature and Society, track English.