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Shakespeare

Description

How do Shakespeare's plays represent the relationship between violence, particularly state violence, and morality? How is the theater similar to surveillance, a mechanism for probing the interiority of characters like Hamlet? In what ways is such surveillance necessary to make persons free and autonomous? How do these plays and poems represent desire and exchange, in both sexual and economic realms? This course serves as an introduction to Shakespeare's plays and poems, via three conceptual issues: 1) violence, justice, and morality; 2) surveillance and selfhood; 3) the relationship between desire and its exchangeable objects. The goal of this topical organization is to provide you with a host of different ways to engage and respond to this gargantuan entity, "Shakespeare." In this course, we'll examine the historical circumstances in which Shakespeare's plays appeared. More importantly, however, we will examine the literary and formal aspects of these plays and poems, how they work as aesthetic objects. In addition to providing an introductory survey of Shakespeare's work, the primary goal of this course is to make you *a sophisticated reader* of and *a critically engaged respondent* to Shakespeare. That means that we'll be examining *how* these plays mean and *how* they function, not just *what* they mean. Thus, we will focus considerable attention on how to write intelligently, seriously, and thoughtfully about Shakespeare.

Readings

Moral Violence	**Desiring Exchange**
Titus Andronicus	*The Merchant of Venice*
Henry V	*As You Like It*
	Venus and Adonis
Theater's Surveillance	Sonnets
Hamlet	
Measure for Measure	

Text

Stephen Greenblatt, ed. *The Norton Shakespeare.* 3rd ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2015. ISBN: 978-0393249835.

Available at Bookworm, 618 E. Walnut St., Carbondale, IL 62901
Rely on the University Bookstore at your peril

Requirements

Six analysis papers, two short-answer exams, two recitations of memorized passages.