

ENGL 829
CONTROVERSIAL SHAKESPEARE
SUMMER 2021 – TERM 1214

INSTRUCTOR:	Ronda Arab	OFFICE HOURS:	TBA
EMAIL:	ronda_arab@sfu.ca	CLASS LOCATION:	TBA
PHONE:		CLASS HOURS:	TBA
OFFICE #		TUTORIALS:	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In English 829, we'll approach the study of Shakespeare's plays from the theoretical perspective that cultural productions such as literature and drama both influence and reflect the thought and practice of the society within which they are produced and reproduced. This perspective allows that literature has a certain amount of autonomy and agency. To quote Jean Howard, "literature is one of many elements participating in a culture's representation of reality to itself" (27). It follows from this perspective that literary documents are a type of historical document. The relationship between "literature" and "history," then, is not one of "texts" (literature) and "contexts" (history), but a relationship of equals, texts and texts—history is a constructed narrative assembled from the variety of available texts from the past, including literary texts. Our approach in English 829 will be to explore Shakespeare's plays as literary-historical documents that reflected, intervened, challenged, or otherwise contributed to discourse and practice in early modern England. But while we will aim to make intelligible the otherness of the past, we will also take a presentist approach and consider the ongoing relevance of Shakespeare's plays to our current time.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/READINGS

All texts are available at the SFU Harbour Centre bookstore. I have ordered the Bedford-St. Martin Texts and Contexts editions of all plays, as these are quality scholarly editions with excellent introductions and contextual apparatus.

William Shakespeare:

- *Taming of the Shrew*
- *Merchant of Venice*
- *Measure for Measure*
- *Macbeth*
- *Othello*
- *The Tempest*

ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATIONS

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Presentation on a play & 4-6 page paper (1400-2000 words) | 25% |
| • analytical discussion of critical article & 4-6 page paper (1400-2000 words) | 25% |
| • term paper (16 -20 pages; 5000-7000 words) | 50% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You are free to expand your presentation into your final paper, and you may use parts of either presentation directly. However, if you use several pages directly from your document presentation, I will expect your term paper to be closer to the maximum of 20 pages than the minimum of 16. | |

All written work **must** use proper MLA or Chicago Bibliographic citation format. If you do not, I will give you back

THE MASTER OF ARTS FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH - MATE

your paper and withhold your grade until you do. You can use as a model the bibliography I have supplied (which is the old style MLA) or go to the library website for guidance, where you will find the following:

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/28303/MLA.pdf>