

University of Puerto Rico  
Río Piedras Campus  
College of Humanities  
Department of English  
English 4039, Shakespeare on Film

Dr. Mark A. Pedreira

Fall term, 2017

Office: Edificio Pedreira, Rm. 2A

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesday 1:30-2:20 p.m., and by appointment

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**Description:**

In this course, we will read representative comedies and tragedies by Shakespeare, and we will see various film adaptations of the same dramatic works. Much time will be given to classroom discussion, analyzing how the directors and actors adapt their art to Shakespeare's poetic craft.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Have read and understood many of Shakespeare's representative comedies and tragedies.
2. Have seen various film adaptations of these dramatic works.
3. Be able to analyze and critically examine these adaptations of Shakespeare's works.
4. Be able to write answers to essay questions and essays on these Shakespearean.

**Texts:**

*The Norton Shakespeare*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. Third edition New York: W.W. Norton , 2015.  
**ISBN-13: 978-0393249835**

**Electronic Resources and Materials:**

After seeing the assigned films in class, you may want to see some of them again. Many of the films are available for personal viewing in the Department of English computer lab.

**Teaching Strategies:**

My teaching strategies include close reading and critical analysis of Shakespeare's plays and Shakespeare on film. This approach, of course, is only possible if students read all of the material for every class.

### Methods of Evaluation:

- Examinations: Midterm Examination & Final Examination (40% each = 80%).
- Short papers (20%).

### Requirements to obtain a Passing Grade:

To pass the class (with a grade of *D* or higher), students must take both the **MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMINATIONS**, as well as complete all of the written assignments (i.e., **short essays**).

Students must also **read all of the assigned works** in *The Norton Shakespeare*.

- **FAILURE** to meet **all of these requirements** will result in a **low** or **failing grade** (i.e., D or F).

**LEY 51:** “Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a).”

### Attendance:

The UPR expects students to attend class regularly and to come to class on time. In this class, failure to do so will severely affect a student’s final grade.

Therefore, missing **4 classes** (or more)—without a certified medical excuse—will result in a **low grade** (i.e., *C* or *D*); and missing **5 classes**, or more, may result in a **failing grade** (i.e., *F*).

### Excused Medical Absences:

If you are sick, get an official note from your physician. If your illness is more than a couple of days, contact me (via email) concerning your situation (period of illness & how to contact you: phone#s, etc.).

### Electronic Devices:

Students should refrain from texting or making and taking phone calls during class. No exceptions.

## **SCHEDULE**

\* NOTE: This *schedule* is *subject to revision*, given the needs of the class and exigencies of the university academic calendar.

### OCTOBER

10/30 Mon. Introduction

### NOVEMBER

11/1 Wed. Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*

11/6 Mon. Branagh's *Much Ado About Nothing*

11/8 Wed. Branagh's *Much Ado About Nothing*

11/13 Mon. Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It*

11/15 Wed. Branagh's *As You Like It*

11/20 Mon. Branagh's *As You Like It*

11/22 Wed. Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*

11/27 Mon. Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*

11/29 Wed. **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

### DECEMBER

12/4 Mon. Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*

12/6 Wed. Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*

12/11 Mon. Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*

12/13 Wed. Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*

12/18 Mon. Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet*

12/20 Wed. Olivier's *Hamlet*

12/27 Wed. Olivier's *Hamlet*

## JANUARY

1/3 Wed. Franco Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*

1/8 Mon. Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*

1/10 Wed. Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*

1/15 Mon. Orson Welles' *Othello*

1/17 Wed. Welles' *Othello*

1/22 Mon. Welles' *Othello*

1/24 Wed. Roman Polanski's *Macbeth*

1/29 Mon. Polanski's *Macbeth*

## FEBRUARY

2/5 Mon. Polanski's *Macbeth*

2/7 Wed. Michael Radford, *The Merchant of Venice*

2/12 Mon. Radford, *The Merchant of Venice*

2/14 Wed. Radford, *The Merchant of Venice*

2/19 Mon. Final business

## Select Bibliography

Buchman, Lorne M. *Still in Movement: Shakespeare on Screen*. New York and Oxford: Oxford U.P., 1991.

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Gardner, Peter S. "Literature and Film: An Annotated Bibliography of

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Jorgens, Jack. *Shakespeare on Film*. Lanham and London: University Press of America, 1991.

McMurtry, Jo. *Shakespeare Films in the Classroom: A Descriptive Guide*, Hamden: Archon Books, 1994.

Parker, Barry M. *The Folger Shakespeare Filmography: A Directory of Feature Films Based on the Works of William Shakespeare*. Washington: Folger Shakespeare Library, 1979.

Pressley, J.M. "Shakespeare Resource Center." <http://www.bardweb.net/about.html> Current, January, 2016

Reynolds, Peter. "Shakespeare on Film". *Shakespeare: Text into Performance*. Hannondsworth: Penguin, 1991.

Rothwell, Kenneth S. and Annabelle Henkin Melzer. *Shakespeare on Screen: An International Filmography and Videography*. London: Mansell; New York: Neal-Schuman, 1990.

"Voice of the Shuttle." <http://vos.ucsb.edu/> Current, January, 2016.

Wheale, Nigel. "Scratching Shakespeare: Video-Teaching the Bard." in *Shakespeare in the Changing Curriculum*. Eds. Lesley Aers and Nigel Wheale. London: Routledge, 1991.