

First-Year Seminar: *SHAKESPEARE & FILM*

FSEM 1111 / Section 36

CRN 4221

4.0 Credits

Fall Quarter, 2016

Sturm Hall 376

Fridays 10:00 – 1:50

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Office Hours: by appointment

Commonplace Book Prompts:

- Offer a few reflections on one or more of the performance spaces we visited during our Destinations trip: the Byron Flex Theatre; the Little / Reiman Theatre; the Holocaust Memorial; and at the DCPA, The Stage Theatre and The Ellie Caulkins Opera House. How does the space of each particular theatre shape possibilities for different kinds of performances?
- Reflect on your visit to the Fine Press and Artists Books collection at DU's Library. How are these kinds of books also performance spaces? Pay special attention to the words you choose to discuss these unique works and their relationships with Shakespeare's texts. Are they adaptations? ... collaborations? ... erasures? ... transfigurations?
- Choose one passage from *Hamlet* and translate it into either a different language or medium. As a companion to your translation, offer a few reflections on this process of remediation and what you've learned from this exercise.
- Choose one character from *Hamlet* and offer as many explanations as possible as to why that character behaves the way they do. What makes them who they are? Why such complexity?
- Outline your ideas for your individual and group research projects.
- Outline your most ambitious plans for your own adaptation of *Hamlet*, either as a work of film or as a work of theatre. You've just received a commission with an unlimited budget for this.
- Choose one passage from the text of *Hamlet*, study it closely, and then unpack everything in it. In other words, interpret the passage (of some dozen lines or sixteen lines) in order to highlight all of the figurative nuances, acting cues, character developments, motifs and themes & etc., as well as relationships among the passage, the particular act and scene, and the rest of the play. You could create a list, or write a paragraph, or draw a picture, or create a collage, or follow a different approach for your work in your commonplace book in response to this prompt.