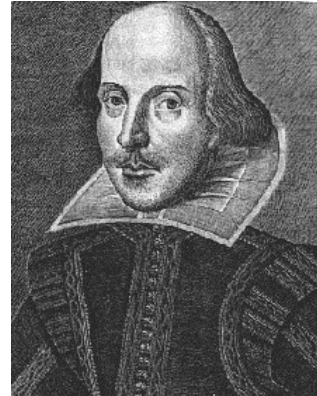


First-Year Seminar
Shakespeare's Cyborgs, Ghosts & Tyrants
FSEM 1111 / Section 36
4.0 Credits / CRN 3337
Fall Quarter, 2017
Sturm Hall 312
Fridays 10:00 – 1:50

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Office Hours: by appointment

“To the Reader”

This Figure, that thou here seest put,
It was for gentle Shakespeare cut,
Wherein the Graver had a strife
With Nature, to out-doo the life:
O, could he but have drawne his wit
As well in brasse, as he hath hit
His face; the Print would then surpasse
All, that was ever writ in brasse.
But, since he cannot, Reader, looke
Not on his Picture, but his Booke.



—Ben Jonson’s commendation of Martin Droeshout’s portrait of William Shakespeare in the 1623 *First Folio* of Shakespeare’s works.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Shakespeare’s ghosts and tyrants are powerful agents of change and chaos during historical and political turning points. They are also cyborgs signifying transgressions across ethical, spiritual, and technological boundaries. What can we learn from such tragic figures within their times and ours? This course will invite students to discover three classic texts—*Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, and *Macbeth*—as works of dramatic literature and as works of modern culture, connecting the plays to history and politics during Shakespeare’s time as well as during modern times. This First-Year Seminar will investigate Shakespeare on the page, stage and screen. Students will work individually and collectively as they develop research projects, connecting the classroom to the world-at-large. This seminar will also provide individualized academic advising as part of a robust introduction to campus resources and the intellectual community at DU.

Books: required for purchase

Shakespeare, William. *Julius Caesar*. Ed. David Daniell. London: Arden, 1998.

---. *Hamlet*. Ed. Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor. London: Arden, 2006.

---. *Macbeth*. Ed. Sandra Clark and Pamela Mason. London: Arden, 2015.

Snyder, Timothy. *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*. New York: Crown, 2017.

Films: <https://canvas.du.edu/login/ldap>

Joseph Mankiewicz’s *Julius Caesar* (1953)

Kenneth Branagh’s *Hamlet* (1996)

Billy Morrissette’s *Scotland, PA* (2001)

Other Materials: to be announced and freely provided

Note on attendance: For each unexcused absence, your grade in the class will be diminished by -0.5.

Note on assignments: Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due at the beginning of class in hard copy form: typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12-point TNR font, pages stapled. Assignments deviating from these guidelines will be considered late. Work submitted late will receive a deduction of -0.5 per day.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

One Commonplace Book*	20%
Six Essays (3-pages each)	40%
One Individual Project & Presentation	20%
One Group Project & Presentation	20%

*Commonplace Book—that is, a hand-written notebook—in which you engage consistently with our work, responding to in-class prompts as well as following your own path through the course. 75-100 words per response.

Note on grading: *The Check System.* I'll be grading your Essays with a check system that will follow these guidelines. A check plus on all your Essays will translate into a grade of 4.0/A for that percentage of your overall grade in the course. Each check will reduce your grade for that component of your overall grade by -0.5. Each check minus, by -1.0; each missing Essay, by -2.0. If you ever receive less than a check plus, you will have the option to revise and resubmit the work for a higher grade. Those revisions, attached to the first versions, will be due by the beginning of the next class meeting. *The Point & Letter System.* I'll be grading your Commonplace Book and Projects with a point & letter system corresponding to this scale: A (4.0-3.9); A- (3.8-3.5); B+ (3.4-3.2); B (3.1-2.9); B- (2.8-2.5); C+ (2.4-2.2); C (2.1-1.9); C- (1.8-1.5); D+ (1.4-1.2); D (1.1-0.9); D- (0.8-0.5); F (0.4-0).

Note on plagiarism: Students are expected to submit original work for all assignments. Plagiarism will result in an automatic F in the course.

CALENDAR
(subject to changes):

Week 1	
F 9/15	Byron Theatre & Reiman Theatre Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> (1599-1623)
Week 2	
F 9/22	Artists' Books Collection / AAC 101 Essay 1 Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> (1599-1623)
Week 3	
F 9/29	Essay 2 Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> (1599-1623) Joseph Mankiewicz's <i>Julius Caesar</i> (1953) Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> (1599-1603/4-1623)
Week 4	
F 10/6	Essay 3 Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> (1599-1603/4-1623)
Week 5	
F 10/13	Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> (1599-1603/4-1623) Branagh's <i>Hamlet</i> (1996) part 1
Week 6	
F 10/20	class begins at 12:00 Essay 4 Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> (1599-1603/4-1623) Branagh's <i>Hamlet</i> (1996) parts 1 & 2 Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> (1606-1623)



