

**ENGL 2221: Shakespeare Seminar**  
***Shakespeare's Americas***

Spring Quarter, 2021  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.  
CRN 2840  
Shakespeare Seminar  
Modality: Online  
Zoom link: <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/85752943443>

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<https://portfolio.du.edu/showard>  
Canvas: <https://canvas.du.edu/>

**Course Description:** This course investigates Shakespeare on the page, stage, and screen, connecting the plays and their source materials, their adaptations and performances to history and politics during Shakespeare's times and ours. We will study five plays—*The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, and *Othello*—as we examine Shakespeare's complex and contested legacy at the intersections of colonialism, postcolonialism, racial justice, and the politics of gender and sexuality. The historical scope of our work engages with an international and interdisciplinary field from the early modern to the modern & postmodern eras, following routes of travel, translation, and trade. We will pay special attention to the role of the First Folio in transnational democracy and dissent, the archival interventions of artist books, and the agency of Shakespearean texts, performances, and adaptations across media engaged as forms of resistance against systemic violence. We will also recover an almost forgotten conversation about *simulacra* at the crux of our concerns with the freedom of expression and social justice, prophecy and protest, reform and revolution. Research projects may include a variety of critical, theoretical, and creative approaches.

**Course Policies:** Our activities and assignments must be completed as noted for each class meeting; guidelines will be distributed in advance via Canvas. Your regular and punctual attendance and spirited engagement are required to pass this course. During each class meeting, you are expected to participate in our work, to listen to your peers, and to respond respectfully. To facilitate our discussions, I will call on you, ask you to engage with the ideas of others, and will challenge all of our assertions in order to energize critical thinking at the center of our work. As part of our conversations, we may discuss details and events in Shakespeare's plays and in related contextual materials that confront matters concerning race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, politics, religion, prejudice, and violence. It is imperative that you read all of our assigned materials and come to class with an open mind, knowing that while we are all welcome to our feelings, the point of exploring these felt responses in a classroom setting is to learn to think critically about them within and against the context(s) of the materials we are studying as well as with respect to our contemporary moment(s) in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Several excellent articles in *The Atlantic* and *Psychology Today* discuss the importance of confronting difficult topics in the classroom.

**Zoom & Canvas:** In addition to using Zoom for our virtual class meetings, we will be using Canvas to facilitate our daily and weekly communications and to organize our course documents. It is your responsibility to follow our daily Announcements on Canvas that will provide detailed instructions for our work during each class meeting.

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

**Note on assignments:** Assignments are due at the dates and times specified by guidelines that will be distributed at least two weeks in advance. Essays should be submitted electronically via e-mail as attached Word documents to [showard@du.edu](mailto:showard@du.edu). Essays should be double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-point TNR font. Assignments deviating from these guidelines will be considered late. Work submitted late will receive a deduction of -0.5 per day.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

Four Essays (5-pages each + works cited & CPB notes)	40%
One Commonplace Book*	10%
One Presentation	10%
One Research Project (8 – 10 pages, or the equivalent depending on media)	40%

\*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. Your essays, presentation, and research project will include documentation from your commonplace book.

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

**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 to 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'll have the option to revise & resubmit the work for a higher grade. Those revisions (with the first copy) will be due by the beginning of the next class meeting. *The Point & Letter System.* I'll be grading your Commonplace Book, Presentation, and Project 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).

### Required Texts:

Césaire, Aimé. *Une Tempête / A Tempest.* Trans. Richard Miller. New York: Theatre Communications, 2002. ISBN: 1559362103

Gunderson, Lauren. *The Book of Will.* Dramatists Play Service, 2018. ISBN: 9780822237723

Nunez, Elizabeth. *Prospero's Daughter.* New York: Ballantine, 2016. ISBN: 9781617755323

Ronk, Martha. *why why not.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. ISBN: 0520238117

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest.* Ed. Virginia Vaughan and Alden Vaughan. London: Bloomsbury, 2011. ISBN: 9781408133477

---. *Hamlet.* Ed. Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor. London: Bloomsbury, 2006. ISBN: 9781472518385

---. *Othello.* Ed. Ayanna Thompson and E.A.J. Honigmann. London: Bloomsbury, 2016. ISBN: 9781472571762

---. *Julius Caesar.* Ed. David Daniell. London: Bloomsbury, 1998. ISBN: 9781903436219

---. *Macbeth.* Ed. Sandra Clark and Pamela Mason. London: Bloomsbury, 2015. ISBN: 9781904271413

### Recommended Resources:

#### Fair-use excerpts from texts (to be freely provided):

Aughterson, Kate, and Alisa Ferguson. *Shakespeare & Gender: Sex and Sexuality in Shakespeare's Drama.*

Bristol, Michael. *Shakespeare's America / America's Shakespeare.*

Hall, Kim. *Things of Darkness: Economies of Race and Gender in Early Modern England.*

Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America.*

Kendi, Ibram X., and Keisha N. Blain. *Four Hundred Souls.*

Piñeyro, José Enrique Camilo Rodó. *Ariel.*

Retamar, Roberto Fernández. *Caliban and other Essays.*

Shapiro, James. *Shakespeare in a Divided America.*

Zabus, Chantal J. *Tempests After Shakespeare.*

#### Web:

British Library / Shakespeare: <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare>

Denver Center for the Performing Arts: <http://www.denvercenter.org/>

Folger Shakespeare Library: Shakespeare Unlimited, <https://www.folger.edu/shakespeare-unlimited>

MIT Global Shakespeares: Video and Performance Archive, <https://globalshakespeares.mit.edu/>

MIT Shakespeare: <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/>

NYT 1619 Project: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

University of Denver Libraries: <http://library.du.edu/>

University of Denver, Theatre Department: <http://www.du.edu/ahss/theatre/>

DU's Reiman Theatre @ CPR: <http://www.cpr.org/news/story/after-85-years-dark-du-mural-revealed>

### CALENDAR (subject to changes):

#### Week 1: *The Tempest*

3/31 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (1611)

NYT 1619 Project (selections)

**CALENDAR (subject to changes):**

**Week 2: *The Tempest & Une Tempête***

4/5 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (1611)  
 NYT 1619 Project (selections)  
 Strachey: *True Repertory* (1609)  
 de Montaigne: “Des Cannibales” (c. 1580)  
 Browning: “Caliban upon Setebos” (1859)  
 Rodó: *Ariel* (1900)  
 Mannoni: *Prospero and Caliban: the Psychology of Colonization* (1948)  
 Kendi: *Stamped From the Beginning* (selections)  
 Kendi and Blain: *Four Hundred Souls* (selections)  
 Retamar: *Caliban* (1974): PDF in the Files section on Canvas

4/7 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (1611)  
 Césaire: *Une Tempête* (1969)  
 NYT 1619 Project (selections)  
 Strachey: *True Repertory* (1609)  
 de Montaigne: “Des Cannibales” (c. 1580)  
 Browning: “Caliban upon Setebos” (1859)  
 Rodó: *Ariel* (1900)  
 Mannoni: *Prospero and Caliban: the Psychology of Colonization* (1948)  
 Kendi: *Stamped From the Beginning* (selections)  
 Kendi and Blain: *Four Hundred Souls* (selections)  
 Retamar: *Caliban* (1974): PDF in the Files section on Canvas

**Week 3: *The Tempest & Une Tempête & Prospero’s Daughter***

4/12 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (1611)  
 Césaire: *Une Tempête* (1969)  
 Performance: Aimé Césaire, *Une Tempête*  
 Kamaluddin Nilu, director, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Hyderabad, India (2014),  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzYOnRdeIpw&ab\\_channel=ShrishPushkar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzYOnRdeIpw&ab_channel=ShrishPushkar)  
 Nunez: *Prospero’s Daughter*  
 NYT 1619 Project (selections)  
 Strachey: *True Repertory* (1609)  
 de Montaigne: “Des Cannibales” (c. 1580)  
 Browning: “Caliban upon Setebos” (1859)  
 Rodó: *Ariel* (1900)  
 Mannoni: *Prospero and Caliban: the Psychology of Colonization* (1948)  
 Kendi: *Stamped From the Beginning* (selections)  
 Kendi and Blain: *Four Hundred Souls* (selections)  
 Retamar: *Caliban* (1974): PDF in the Files section on Canvas

4/14 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (1611)  
 Césaire: *Une Tempête* (1969)  
 Performance: Aimé Césaire, *Une Tempête*  
 Kamaluddin Nilu, director, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Hyderabad, India (2014),  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzYOnRdeIpw&ab\\_channel=ShrishPushkar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzYOnRdeIpw&ab_channel=ShrishPushkar)  
 Nunez: *Prospero’s Daughter*  
 NYT 1619 Project (selections)  
 Strachey: *True Repertory* (1609)  
 de Montaigne: “Des Cannibales” (c. 1580)  
 Browning: “Caliban upon Setebos” (1859)  
 Rodó: *Ariel* (1900)  
 Mannoni: *Prospero and Caliban: the Psychology of Colonization* (1948)  
 Kendi: *Stamped From the Beginning* (selections): PDF in the Files section on Canvas

Kendi and Blain: *Four Hundred Souls* (selections): “  
 Retamar: *Caliban* (1974): PDF in the Files section on Canvas

**Week 4: *Macbeth***

- 4/19 Essay #1 Due  
 Shakespeare: *Macbeth* (1606)  
 4/21 Shakespeare: *Macbeth* (1606)

**Week 5: *Macbeth & Julius Caesar***

- 4/26 Shakespeare: *Macbeth* (1606) & *Julius Caesar* (1599)  
 4/28 Shakespeare: *Macbeth* (1606) & *Julius Caesar* (1599)

**Week 6: *Macbeth & Julius Caesar & Hamlet***

- 5/3 Essay #2 Due  
 Shakespeare: *Macbeth* (1606) & *Julius Caesar* (1599) & *Hamlet* (1602, 1604, 1623)  
 Shakespeare: First Folio (1623)  
 Shakespeare Artists' Books Collection / AAC 101  
 5/5 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* (1602, 1604, 1623)  
 Shakespeare: First Folio (1623)  
 Shakespeare Artists' Books Collection / AAC 101

**Week 7: *Hamlet & why why not & The Book of Will***

- 5/10 Project Proposals Due  
 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* (1602, 1604, 1623)  
 Shakespeare: First Folio (1623)  
 Ronk: *why why not* (2003)  
 Gunderson: *The Book of Will* (2018)  
 5/12 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* (1602, 1604, 1623)  
 Shakespeare: First Folio (1623)  
 Ronk: *why why not* (2003)  
 Gunderson: *The Book of Will* (2018)

**Week 8: *Hamlet & Othello***

- 5/17 Essay #3 Due  
 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* (1602, 1604, 1623) & *Othello* (1603)  
 5/19 Shakespeare: *Othello* (1603)

**Week 9: *Othello & Macbeth & Julius Caesar***

- 5/24 Shakespeare: *Othello* (1603) & *Macbeth* (1606) & *Julius Caesar* (1599)  
 5/26 Shakespeare: *Othello* (1603) & *Macbeth* (1606) & *Julius Caesar* (1599)

**Week 10: *Othello & The Tempest***

- 5/31 Memorial Day // University Closed  
 6/2 Essay #4 Due  
 Shakespeare: *Othello* (1603) & *The Tempest* (1611)  
 Presentations

**Week 11**

- 6/7 Presentations  
 6/11 Projects due by or before this date