

Shakespeare and Love Syllabus

Overview:

This class will provide an introduction and discussion of three of the love plays that will be produced during the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's summer of 2019: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *As You Like It*.

The sessions will combine discussion, comparisons of video clips, and reading aloud short scenes from each of these three plays, facilitated by Cathy McCalmon and Ann Rounds.

We will ask attendees to read or watch a video of each of the three plays before our discussion of it. Any editions are acceptable, but the best probably are the paperback Folger editions, with clarifying notes on the side of each page.

April 30, Week 1: Introduction to the themes of love as presented in these plays, as well as Elizabethan theater, its conventions, its actors, and Shakespeare's life as it relates to this theme.

May 7, Week 2: *Romeo and Juliet*: Youth and Age, Inexperience and Experience, death and love, day and night : comedy turned inside out.

May 14, Week 3: *As You Like It*: Shakespeare turns the idea of pastoral love upside down in the Eden-like and mirroring Forest of Arden.

May 21, Week 4: *Twelfth Night* - Cross-dressing, love, and Recognition of identity on the Feast of the Epiphany. Love defeats the sickness of Melancholy and the sin of self-love.