

FS 101: SHAKESPEARE ON SCREEN

J. C. BULMAN

Odd Fellows 234

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Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:00; M 1:30-2:45; Th 2:45-4:30

Texts:

Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 6th edn. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009)
Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (Signet)
Shakespeare, *Othello* (Signet)
Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* (Signet)
Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Signet)
Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night* (Signet)

Shakespeare has become a cultural icon in twenty-first century America. Whether or not people have read the plays, they can identify Shakespeare's face, his characters' names, and recognize particular plots and famous lines. Why has his influence become so pervasive, four hundred years after the plays were first performed? And, for the educated public, why do those plays still speak to contemporary cultural concerns, and why are they susceptible to being adapted into peculiarly American idioms? These are the questions we shall consider in this course. They will involve (1) reading the plays, exploring the texts and their interpretive possibilities; then (2) watching film versions of the plays and discussing how actors, directors, and designers have chosen to foreground particular aspects of plot and character; and finally (3), watching film adaptations – new work inspired by old plays – to discover how Shakespeare has been refashioned to address contemporary social issues for American audiences. All films will be shown in Odd Fellows 221 at 7 pm. Attendance is required: if by any chance you have an irresolvable conflict, be sure to watch the film prior to class discussion. Films are on reserve in the library for you to view on your own in a video carrel.

Equally important to this course content, however, will be your development of the following skills:

- ❖ Honing critical reading and listening skills
- ❖ Honing writing and speaking skills
- ❖ Summarizing information in accurate and concise ways
- ❖ Learning how to advance and support and argument
- ❖ Developing strategies for revising oral and written work
- ❖ Researching and articulating a specific academic plan for your college career.

Writing and speaking lie at the core of this course, for only by learning to express your thoughts with precision will you acquire the power to communicate effectively and to control your environment. There is no such thing as a good idea badly expressed: ideas

are only as good as their expression. You will therefore be assigned regular papers and speech topics for class. One will involve research, and during the semester you will have the opportunity to attend a library orientation class tailored to the research project you have been assigned. Your final grade will depend on papers (60%), on oral presentations (20%), and on regular and active class participation (20%).

Course policies:

Attendance: You may have up to three unexcused absences without a grade penalty. After that, I shall deduct 3% from your *final* grade for each additional unexcused absence. Medical excuses will be accepted *only* with a note from a doctor or from the Health Center.

Late work: It is important to pass work in on time. Assignments will be penalized by a half-letter grade for each day they are late (e.g., a B- will become a C+). All work must be completed for you to receive a grade in the course.

Plagiarism: It is unethical to use others' work without attribution. All outside sources you use must be properly cited according to MLA guidelines (See Hacker). These guidelines will be reviewed in class, but if you have any questions about the proper use and acknowledgement of sources, please ask. Like you, I am bound by the Honor Code and will refer any plagiarism to the Honor Committee.

Accommodations for disabilities: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services at (814) 332-2898. Disability Services is part of the Learning Commons and is located in Pelletier Library.

Dates of all film showings, papers due, in-class speeches, and advising assignments are in bold.

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
9/2	Introduction to the course
*9/5, 7	Speeches on some aspect of oneself as character
9/9-16	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> : discussion of the text
9/18 7pm	Showing of Zeffirelli, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
9/19	Discussion of <i>Shrew</i> films
9/19 7pm	Showing of <i>Ten Things I Hate about You</i>

*9/21	Position paper due on <i>Ten Things I Hate about You</i> Class discussion: What is meant by cultural adaptation?
9/23	Discuss writing: samples from your own papers
9/26-10/3	<i>Othello</i> : discussion of the text
9/30 or 10/1, 8 pm	See a performance of <i>The Crazy Things We Do: Love and Loss</i>, (includes a play about Juliet) in the Vukovich Center theatre.
10/4 7pm	Showing of Parker, <i>Othello</i>
10/5	Discussion of <i>Othello</i> films
10/6 7pm	Showing of <i>O</i>
10/7	Library session: how to navigate Allegheny's resources
*10/10	Position paper due on <i>O</i>, using at least one reference source Discussion of <i>O</i> as cultural adaptation
10/12, 14	Discuss writing: samples from your own papers
10/17	No class: Fall Break
10/19	Discussion of the College Honor Code and community standards
10/21-28	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> : discussion of the text
10/27 7pm	Showing of Zeffirelli, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
10/30 7pm	Showing of Luhrman, <i>Romeo + Juliet</i>
10/31	Discussion of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> films
11/1 7pm	Showing of <i>West Side Story</i>
11/2	Discussion of <i>West Side Story</i> as cultural adaptation What constitutes a good speech
*11/4	Advising assignment due: a comprehensive academic plan Introduction to ACCEL
*11/7-11	Speeches on the cultural adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>: the art of close analysis

*11/15 5pm	Paper due: an expansion of the analysis done for speeches
11/14-21	<i>Twelfth Night</i> : discussion of the text
11/20 7pm	Showing of Nunn, <i>Twelfth Night</i>
11/23, 25	No class: Thanksgiving Break
11/28	Discussion of <i>Twelfth Night</i> films
11/29 7pm	Showing of <i>She's the Man</i>
11/30	Discussion of <i>She's the Man</i> and cross-gender issues
*12/5	Position paper due on the cultural adaptation of <i>Twelfth Night</i>
12/2-9	<i>Macbeth</i> : discussion of the text
12/11 7pm	Showing of Polanski, <i>Macbeth</i>
12/12	Discussion of <i>Macbeth</i> films
12/13 7pm	Showing of <i>Scotland, PA</i>
12/14	Discussion of <i>Scotland, PA</i> as an American crime story
*12/19 9am	Position paper due on <i>Scotland, PA</i> as cultural adaptation