

E. 3130: Elizabethan Shakespeare:  
Shakespeare and Love

Dr. Steve Mentz  
[mentzs@stjohns.edu](mailto:mentzs@stjohns.edu)

This course looks at depictions of love in Shakespeare's early plays and poems. The course will orient itself between two constructions of theatrical love and the problem of the boy actor: the Hollywood film "Shakespeare in Love," which enacts a sentimental fantasy about love and Shakespeare's career, and the slightly later play *Macbeth*, which explores the consequences of tragic love and ambition. We'll read *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, and the narrative poem "Venus and Adonis." We'll also see Shakespeare NYC's *Macbeth* in September and the Red Bull Theatre's new production of Marlowe's *Edward II* at the end of the semester

Learning Goals:

1. **Writing:** Clear, analytical papers that advance a thesis with close textual evidence.
2. **Reading:** Shakespeare's plays and how their language works in performance.
3. **Analysis:** Shakespeare's influence on our modern concept of "love."
4. **Context:** Exploring how Shakespeare's plays speak to our emotional lives.

Required Books: William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (any edition)  
William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* (Signet)  
William Shakespeare, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Arden)  
William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Arden 3)  
William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (Arden 3)  
William Shakespeare, *The Narrative Poems* (Signet)  
Christopher Marlowe, *Complete Plays* (Penguin)

\*Books available at Ed's Bookstore or the campus bookstore.

Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance and participation in class (10%)
- Weekly Web CT participation (10%)
- One short (3-5 page) close reading paper (15%)
- Rewritten paper (15%)
- Monologue or scene performance (10%)
- Final Paper (30%)
- Take-home final exam (10%)

Class meetings: MW 9:05 – 10:00, Marillac 138A

Contact Information:

- St John Hall, B40-4
- Email: [mentzs@stjohns.edu](mailto:mentzs@stjohns.edu)
- Phone: x6690
- Office Hours: MW 8– 9 am, 10 – 11, or by appointment

Plagiarism Policy: Any plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the paper. The paper must then be rewritten in order to pass the course. See me with questions.

## Weekly Schedule

Week 1	W	8/29	Shakespeare and Love
	F	8/31	Online Coursework: Shakespeare, Love, and Popular Culture
Week 2	M	9/3	Labor Day – No Class
	W	9/5	<i>Macbeth</i> , Act 1
	F	9/7	Online Coursework: <i>Macbeth</i> , Love, and Tragedy
Week 3	M	9/10	<i>Macbeth</i> , Acts 2-3
	W	9/12	<i>Macbeth</i> , Acts 4-5
	Th	9/13	“Macbeth” by Shakespeare NYC at Beckett Theatre, 410 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St. (between 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenues) 7:00 pm
	F	9/14	Online Coursework: Love in Performance
Week 4	M	9/17	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Act 1
	W	9/19	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Act 2-3
	F	9/21	Online Coursework: Juliet, Romeo, and the Macbeths
Week 5	M	9/24	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Act 4
	W	9/26	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Act 5
	F	9/28	Online Coursework: Politics, Religion, and Love <b>Paper #1: Close Reading due</b>
Week 6	M	10/1	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , Act 1
	W	10/3	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , Acts 2-3
	F	10/5	Online Coursework: Comedy v. Tragedy
Week 7	M	10/8	Columbus Day – No Class
	W	10/10	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , Act 4-5
	F	10/12	Online Coursework: “The bit with the dog” reconsidered <b>Rewritten Paper due</b>
Week 8	M	10/15	<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> , Act 1
	W	10/17	<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> , Acts 2-3
	F	10/19	Online Coursework: Athens v. the Woods
Week 9	M	10/22	<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> , Act 4
	W	10/24	<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> , Act 5
	F	10/26	Online Coursework: Bottom’s Dream v. Marriage
Week 10	M	10/29	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
	W	10/31	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
	F	11/2	Online Coursework: Theater v. Narrative Poetry

Week 11	M	11/5	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
	W	11/7	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
	F	11/9	Online Coursework: Venus's Curse
Week 12	M	11/12	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 1
	W	11/14	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 2
	F	11/15	Online Coursework: Rosalind in Love
Week 13	M	11/19	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 3
	W	11/21	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class
	F	11/23	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class
Week 14	M	11/26	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 4
	W	11/28	<i>As You Like It</i> , Act 5
	F	11/30	Online Coursework: The Epilogue
Week 15	M	12/3	<i>Edward II</i> Student Performance
	W	12/5	<i>Edward II</i> Student Performances <b>Final Paper due in class</b> <b>Take home final assigned (due during exam period)</b>
Week 16	T	12/11	“Edward II” by the Red Bull Theater Company opens