

E. 3140: Jacobean Shakespeare:  
Shakespeare and the Islamic World

Dr. Steve Mentz  
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Beginning with *Antony and Cleopatra*, Shakespeare's epic drama about the consolidation of Western political unity through a mixture of war and love with an Eastern power, this course uses Shakespeare's plays to consider the long-term cultural relationship between the European West and the Islamic Middle East. Shakespearean plays will include *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Othello*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Pericles*. We'll also read some non-Shakespearean plays including Robert Daborne's *A Christian Turned Turk* and Philip Massinger's *The Renegado*. We'll see a new production of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Theatre for a New Audience in Manhattan on March 26-7, and (if it appears on time) we'll also read the upcoming issue of the new British academic journal *Shakespeare* on the topic of Shakespeare and Islam in spring 2008.

Required Books: William Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Arden 3)  
William Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus* (Arden 3)  
William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* (Arden 3)  
William Shakespeare, *Othello* (Arden 3)  
William Shakespeare, *Pericles* (Arden 3)  
Daniel J. Vitkus, ed., *Three Turk Plays* (Columbia)

\*Books are available at Ed's Bookstore (17627 Union Turnpike; 718-969-7173; [eds@compuserve.com](mailto:eds@compuserve.com)) or at the campus bookstore.

Requirements and Goals • Regular attendance, participation, and Web CT

- Goal: To draw students into active dialogue with the plays
- One short (3-5 page) close reading paper (20%)
  - Goal: To assess student ability to analyze Shakespeare
- Rewritten paper (20%)
  - Goal: To improve analytical writing practices
- Performance Review (10%)
  - Goal: To explore the choices of professional actors
- Monologue or scene performance (10%)
  - Goal: To encounter the embodied language directly
- Final Paper (30%)
  - Goal: To analyze the place of Islam in Shakespeare's plays
- Take-home final exam (10%)
  - Goal: To assess the afterlife of Shakespeare's Islam

Class meetings: MW 11:15 – 12:10, Marillac 334A

Contact Information: • St John Hall, B40-6  
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Weekly Schedule of Readings:

Week 1:	W 1/23 F 1/25	Introduction to Shakespeare and the Islamic World Web CT: What is Shakespeare? What is Islam?
Week 2:	M 1/28 W 1/30 F 2/1	<i>Antony &amp; Cleopatra</i> 1 (Class begins at 11:30) <i>Antony &amp; Cleopatra</i> 2-3 (Class begins at 11:30) Web CT: What is Shakespeare's East?
Week 3:	M 2/4 W 2/6 F 2/8	<i>Antony &amp; Cleopatra</i> 4 (Class begins at 11:30) <i>Antony &amp; Cleopatra</i> 5 Web CT: Drama and Empire
Week 4	M 2/11 W 2/13 F 2/15	<i>A Christian Turned Turk</i> , Scenes 1-6 <i>A Christian Turned Turk</i> , Scenes 7-12 Web CT: What does "turning Turk" mean?
Week 5	M 2/18 W 2/20 F 2/22	President's Day – No Class <i>A Christian Turned Turk</i> , Scenes 13-16 <b>Paper #1 due</b>
Spring Break 2/25 – 3/1		
Week 6	M 3/3 W 3/5 F 3/7	<i>Othello</i> 1 <i>Othello</i> 2-3 Web CT: Compare Othello with Antony and Ward
Week 7	M 3/10 W 3/12 F 3/14	<i>Othello</i> 4 <i>Othello</i> 5 <b>Paper #2 (Revision) due</b>
Week 8	M 3/17 W 3/19 F 3/21	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> 1 <i>Titus Andronicus</i> 2-3 Easter Holiday – No Web CT
Week 9	M 3/24 W 3/26 F 3/28	Easter Holiday – No Class <i>Titus Andronicus</i> 4-5 <b>Performance of <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> W 3/26 or Th 3/27</b> Web CT: <b>Performance Review due</b>
Week 10	M 3/31 W 4/2 F 4/4	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> 1 <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> 2-3 Web CT: What is the relationship between East and West?
Week 11	M 4/7 W 4/9	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> 4 <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> 5

	F 4/11	Web CT: Does Portia fix everything?
Week 12	M 4/14 W 4/16 F 4/18	<i>The Renegado</i> 1 <i>The Renegado</i> 2-3 Web CT: Proposal for Final Paper
Week 13	M 4/21 W 4/23 F 4/25	<i>The Renegado</i> 4 <i>The Renegado</i> 5 Web CT: Introduction and Outline of Final Paper
Week 14	M 4/28  W 4/30  F 5/2	In-class Performances <i>Pericles</i> 1 In-class Performances <i>Pericles</i> 2-3 Web CT: Final Thoughts on Shakespeare's East
Week 15	M 5/5	In-class Performances <i>Pericles</i> 4-5 <b>Final Paper due in class</b> <b>Take-home final assigned</b>

Plagiarism Statement: All written work from this class must be original. If you read critical work that influences you or that you make use of, you must footnote or otherwise cite your sources. Any first case of plagiarism will result in a two-part penalty: 1) the assignment grade will be an F, and 2) the student must re-write the assignment with original analysis (without changing the grade). Any second cases will result in failing the class.