

INTL/ENGL:3287 Shakespeare's England

Summer 2021

3 credit hours

May 24-June 18 (4 weeks)

Modality: Online, with F2F/Hybrid available for students in Iowa City, if conditions permit

Time: 9.30-12.15 M-Th

Blaine Greteman

474 EPB

blaine-greteman@uiowa.edu

Phone: 319-384-1860

Office Hours: 12.15-1, M-Th

Spend your summer studying abroad – in Iowa. In addition to readings and writing that will fill the standard requirements for an undergraduate Shakespeare course, this class will offer a virtual study abroad experience in which we get to know Shakespeare's England through performances, readings, and livestreamed interviews and presentations with actors, directors, and scholars in London and Shakespeare's home town of Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Around the time that Shakespeare moved to London from rural Warwickshire, an awed German visitor wrote that the city "is a wonder for learned men." How does that experience of moving from the English countryside to the teeming, cosmopolitan city imprint itself on Shakespeare's plays? What can we recognize in the landscape and cityscape of today's England that would have been familiar to him? We will also talk with actors, directors, and scholars about the significance of performing the plays in Stratford or London, even if they are setting the plays in very different locations. On the one hand, theatre offers an escape from our particular circumstances – on the other hand, it is all about the actors and audience assembled *right here*, and how does that differ when the *right here* is Stratford as opposed to say, Iowa City? How did that change during the pandemic, and what is it like to begin to re-enter the theatres as the pandemic begins to subside?

- **Eligibility requirements:**

GPA: 2.75 or above

Majors: open to all undergraduates

Good academic and disciplinary standing at the University of Iowa.

- **Application Materials:** *A study abroad application form and a copy of the student's current grade report.*

Outcomes: I want you to become a better reader, writer, and thinker. To facilitate this, we will be writing in various different modes – journalistic think pieces, short papers, creative works.

Course Requirements:

Regular reading responses, quizzes, engaged participation, final project and presentation.

I give quizzes to make sure you have done the reading *and* to help you get several grades on the books quickly so you know what to expect and everything doesn't hinge on the final project. The same is true of the short papers. Having said that, the final project remains a major part of the grade, and you should begin early, consult with me often, and work hard to make sure it represents your best work.

Required text available at the UI bookstore:

William Shakespeare, *Norton Shakespeare*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt (Norton, 2008).
ISBN: 0393929914 (But any edition of the Norton Shakespeare will do).

Grades:

Participation:	25%
Reading Quizzes:	30%
Papers/creative work (2 of these):	30%
Discussion boards and Q&As:	10%

I will give “+” and “-“ grades.

A Note on Attendance

Since discussion is a core component of the course, your absence affects everyone. More than 1 absence without a university sanction will result in a deduction of 1/2 from your participation grade for each day missed. Excessive absences (more than 3) may result in failing the class.

Grading Scale:

A	>94
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	<60

Reading schedule and guest speakers (subject to change)

Week 1: The Plague Comes to London

M Introduction to the course. *King Lear* 1.1

T *King Lear* Act 1-2. Clips from recent films.

W *King Lear* Act 3-4. Zoom Q&A with Harry McCarthy, Shakespeare and performance studies, University of Cambridge

Th *King Lear* Act 5. Zoom Q&A with members of the Royal Shakespeare Company

Week 2: Escape to the Suburbs

M *Merry Wives of Windsor* Act 1. Zoom Interview with 2018 cast members.

T *Merry Wives of Windsor* Act 2. Zoom Q&A: with Professor Ruth Ahnert, Queen Mary's London

W *Merry Wives of Windsor* Act 3.

Th *Merry Wives of Windsor* Act 4-5

Week 3: The Country Air (Love is in it)

M *As You Like It* Act 1

T *As You Like It* Act 2

W *As You Like It* Act 3

Th *As You Like it* Act 4-5

Week 4: English Nationalism in a Wooden O

M *Henry V* Act 1. Zoom Globe Tour and Q&A with Dr Will Tosh, research fellow and lecturer at Shakespeare's Globe and Professor Farah Karim-Cooper. Globe Professor of Shakespeare Studies, King's College

T *Henry V* Act 2. Zoom interview with Matthew Barrow, Librarian to the Houses of Parliament

W *Henry V* Act 3

Th *Henry V* Act 4-5