

Literature in English: Older Period I (A005255)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time** 150 h **Contact hrs** 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1) English Gent online seminar 30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Bricker, Andrew LW07 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English Literature; Early Modern; Renaissance; Dramaturgy; Performance

Position of the course

An MA-level course on the dramaturgy and historical and contemporary staging of William Shakespeare's plays.

Contents

Initial competences

To have successfully completed at least one of the 'English Literature III' courses, or to have achieved the intended learning objectives (including a thorough command of the English language) by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To acquire a nuanced understanding of the cultural, political and historical context of a variety of Anglo-American literary texts, from the medieval period to the present.
- 2 To gain theoretical and historical perspectives on the experience of reading and writing.
- 3 To cultivate specialist analytical and critical skills necessary to persuasively communicate ideas about literature.
- 4 To acquire the academic writing competence that will allow students to present the results of their research in the form of an M.A.-thesis.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, online seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods

The lessons take the form of a seminar with class discussion.

Please note that there will be a field trip to Brussels on the evening of Thursday, 1 October 2020 to see a performance of *Macbeth* by the Brussels Shakespeare Company.

Please note that students are *not* permitted to use laptops or cell phones in class, for a few reasons:

- multitasking impairs learning:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563212003305>
- In-class laptop and cell-phone usage reduces long-term retention and negatively impacts subsequent exam performance:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01443410.2018.1489046>
- note-taking by hand improves retention and comprehension of course material:
<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/22/0956797614524581.abstract>
- the mere visual presence of one's own smartphone, even if unused, may occupy limited-capacity cognitive resources, thereby undercutting cognitive performance:
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/691462>
- non-note-taking and rampant typing impair the learning experience of your peers:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254>

If you require the use of a laptop, please come talk to Andrew. I will happily accommodate you, but I will ask that you turn your WiFi off and diligently commit to using the laptop for only class-related work.

COVID-19: as a result of the Corona crisis, the following adjustments will be made once for AJ 20-21: all lecture sessions will be conducted exclusively online and will be recorded; laptops are permitted; the field trip to Brussels is cancelled.

Learning materials and price

We will study about eight of Shakespeare's plays, including possibly *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *the Merchant of Venice*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard II*, and *Merry Wives of Windsor*.

It is essential, given the long and complicated textual history of many of Shakespeare's plays, that students use reliable modern printed editions of the plays (please note as well that, given the course's personal-technology policy, online editions of the plays *cannot* be used). There are a few options:

1. **Preferred option:** buy each play individually from the Pelican Shakespeare series (4-9 eur. each), which will provide you with a portable, carefully edited, carefully annotated, fully introduced version of each play:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/series/BS5/the-pelican-shakespeare/>

These Pelican editions will be ordered for the course and will be available at Standaard Boekhandel on the Kouter. Students interested in the "adequate" or "economical" options, below, will have to arrange ordering and purchase of the primary texts.

2. **Adequate option:** William Shakespeare, *The New Oxford Shakespeare: The Complete Works: Modern Critical Edition*, ed. Gary Taylor (Oxford University Press, 2017). A fully annotated and carefully edited single volume of all of Shakespeare's plays which sells for about 50 eur. It is, however, massive (almost 4,000 pages) and as a result awkward to read and very heavy to carry around (almost 6 kg):

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-new-oxford-shakespeare-modern-critical-edition-9780198749721?lang=en&cc=be>

3. **Economical option:** William Shakespeare, *The Oxford Shakespeare: The Complete Works*, 2nd ed., ed. Stanley Wells et al. (Oxford University Press, 2005), another very large paperback (1,500 pages), which sells for about 20-25 eur., but lacks annotations, which might leave you confused if you're not fully fluent in heavily figurative early modern English:

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/william-shakespeare-the-complete-works-9780199267187?lang=en&cc=be>

COVID-19: as a result of the Corona crisis, the following adjustments will be made once

for AJ 20-21: we will study six plays by Shakespeare (i.e., *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *the Merchant of Venice*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*).

References

Course content-related study coaching

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination, participation, assignment, peer assessment, report

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

This course will entail extensive, compulsory and weekly oral participation on the part of students, including in-seminar conversation every session and a 45-minute group oral presentation. Together, these two components comprise 45% of the total final grade for the course.

Please also note that, because this course focuses on the staging and performance of Shakespeare's plays, there will be a compulsory weekly screening of a stage or film adaptation every Monday evening between 7 and 10pm (except for a screening on Tuesday 3 November, due to a holiday); each screening will form a partial basis for in-seminar discussions on Thursdays. Students unable to attend a screening are expected independently to access and independently to review a copy of the performance.

COVID-19: as a result of the Corona crisis, the following adjustments will be made once for AJ 20-21: expectations of oral participation will be reduced; screenings will continue to take place at the Filmzaal, in person, unless it becomes impossible as the coronavirus situation evolves. If in-person screenings are cancelled, students will need to screen adaptations at home, which might require the rental of certain adaptations.

Calculation of the examination mark

Oral Participation (in class, every session): 25%

Oral Presentation (in class, 45 minutes): 25%

Final Research Project: 50%

In the second examination period students can only retake the final research project. The marks for the other evaluation methods will be maintained.

COVID-19: as a result of the Corona crisis, the following adjustments will be made once for AJ 20-21:

Oral Participation (in class, every session): 15%

Conversation leader (once, in class, 30 minutes): 20%

Final Research Project: 65%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours