

# ENGE3500: Shakespeare

## Course Timeline

Date	Texts and Lecture Titles	Topics
1	Shakespeare, Persuasion, and Scepticism	Shakespeare's language Poetry and persuasion Shakespeare and scepticism
2	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>	Rhetoric and poetry The power/powerlessness of persuasion Shakespeare the poet-playwright
3	<i>Shakespeare's Sonnets</i> 1-18	The Sonnets and autobiography Narcissism: resistance to persuasion Themes: procreation, poetry, time
4	<i>Measure for Measure</i> (Acts I and II)	What's problematic about problem plays? The logic of substitution II.2 and II.4: rules and justifications
5	<i>Measure for Measure</i> (Acts III-V)	Moral responsibility Formal coherence and incoherence The Friar's/Duke's problematic resolution.
6	<i>Measure for Measure</i> in Performance	Performances: Shakespeare's Globe, BBC The Duke's pauses Isabella's rage and Claudio's fear
7	<i>King Lear</i> (Acts I and II)	Proof of love/love of proof Parents and children Lear's fool, Lear's folly
8	<i>King Lear</i> (Acts III-V)	Lear's madness; "Shakespearean madness" Return to nature Tragedy and nihilism
9	<i>King Lear</i> in Performance	Performances: several Versions of the play: performance history Unbearable tragedy
10	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> (Acts I and II)	Antony and Cleopatra in love Staging selves: Roman and Egyptian The Asiatic style: Enobarbus' speech (II.2)
11	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> (Acts III-V)	Antony's "tragic" death Memorialising the dead <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> and tragic form
12	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> in Performance	Performances: The Globe, BBC, CUHK Cleopatra's mutability Theatre of disappointment
13	Against Shakespeare	Milton's "praise": "On Shakespeare" Tolstoy's attack (and Orwell's defence) Wittgenstein's backhanded "compliments"

## Assessment Scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Essay 1	1000-1500 words	40%
Essay 2	1000-1500 words	40%
Presentation	15 mins (approx.)	15%
Participation		5%

## Set Texts

*Measure for Measure* (Oxford Shakespeare)

*King Lear* (Oxford Shakespeare)

*Antony and Cleopatra* (Oxford Shakespeare)

These are the texts I will be using. I would advise you to buy these, or other modern editions of the plays (with copious footnotes). Arden and Cambridge are good, Penguin isn't bad, Signet is only okay (but it's cheap!). They will be available at the University Bookstore, but you can also buy them online here (and perhaps more cheaply): <https://www.bookdepository.com>

## Tutorial Presentation

- i) These may focus on any aspect of any play/poem(s) for that week's reading.
- ii) Approximately 15 mins.
- iii) Please formulate some interesting questions to pose to the class.

## Late Submission of Essays

If you submit your essay late, you will incur a penalty of one mark per day.

## Contact

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## Plagiarism

You must submit a soft copy of your essay through VERIGUIDE, and submit a hard copy to me.

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.