



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGL 710 RENAISSANCE DRAMA

SPRING | 2015

Thursday 14:30-17:20

ML 135 Theatre of the Arts (gather)

ML 259 (as needed)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Roberts-Smith

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Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-5:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION: THE PLAY'S THE THING

This course interrogates the role of performance - as an object of study, a conceptual context, and a research methodology - in the criticism and editing of Elizabethan play texts. After an orientation to the working concepts of theatricality and performativity as they relate to theatrical texts, we will spend the first two-thirds of the term exploring major trends in current performance-oriented scholarship and editorial practice. Our shared reference will be Shakespeare's *Henry the Sixth, Part One*, which is currently in rehearsal in the undergraduate Drama program at Waterloo. With that background as context, all students will attend at least one of two international conferences on early English theatre studies (at Waterloo and McMaster Universities) in June. We will then turn to a critical examination of the ongoing performance/literature debate in Shakespeare studies and its relevance to scholarly editing and communication. Our final archival, theoretical, editorial, and/or performance projects will respond to conference proceedings through the lens of the plays under scrutiny at McMaster: *Henry the Sixth, Part One* and the anonymous *Three Ladies of London*. Students will be invited to submit final papers, editorial projects, and/or performance project documentation to the McMaster conference's print and online publications.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- articulate an overview of the state of the field of early modern theatre and performance studies as it relates to Elizabethan theatrical texts
- conduct independent primary, historical research in early modern theatre and performance studies
- analyze and critique a selection of the range of methodologies (archival, performance, and editorial) currently driving the field with reference to the example of a specific text
- interact productively with leaders in the field at an international conference
- prepare and submit original research in the field for publication

ASSESSMENTS

Glossary Contribution – Hard Words and the Mother Tongue – 5% (Due Thursday 14 May)

Presentation – Materialities of Historical Performance - 15% (Weeks 4-6)

Conference Response – Methodologies for Performance Research - 20% (Due Thursday 9 July)

Research Project – *Henry the Sixth, Part One* in Performance

10% Proposal (Due Thursday 23 July) - 30% Project (Due Tuesday 4 August)

Participation – 20%

COURSE RESOURCES: THE PLAY'S THE THING

TEXTS

Required

Shakespeare, William. *Henry the Sixth, Part One*. Ed. Michael Taylor. Oxford, 2008. Available from uWaterloo Bookstore.

See Google Drive for other readings and references.

Recommended

The Three Ladies of London. *Early English Books Online*.

REHEARSALS

Required

Required rehearsals are built in to regular class meetings.

Recommended

Henry the Sixth, Part One
Monday 4 May, 10-12:15: Meet & Greet, Design Presentations
12:30-3: First Read Through
Theatre of the Arts (ML 153)

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PERFORMANCES

NOTE: Students must arrange their own transportation to performances.

Required

At least one performance of *Henry the Sixth, Part One*
Sunday 7 June, University of Toronto
Friday 19 June, University of Waterloo
Saturday 18 June, University of Waterloo
Wednesday 24 June, McMaster University (Hamilton)*
Cost: Free!

*Free with conference registration.

Recommended

Much Ado About Nothing
Sunday 3 May, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto
Cost: \$25 (please bring your student ID and exact change
Jeylan Turkeri, ML 119A).

The Three Ladies of London:
Friday 5 June, University of Toronto
Tuesday 23 June, McMaster University (Hamilton)
Cost: Free with conference registration!

Hamlet, Pericles, or Taming of the Shrew
Stratford Festival (see <http://2015stc.ca/>)
Cost: \$42-\$63 with conference registration.

CONFERENCES

NOTE: Students must arrange their own transportation to conferences

Required

Performance as Research in Early English Theatre Studies
Tuesday 24 June
Recommended: Tuesday 23 June – Thursday 25 June
McMaster University, Hamilton
Cost: \$11.30/day
Information and registration here:
<http://threeladiesoflondon.mcmaster.ca/>

Required (during class time)

Shakespearean Theatre Conference: Language in Text and Performance
Stratford Festival/University of Waterloo, Stratford
Thursday 18 June – Sunday 21 June
Cost: Free!
Information and registration here: <http://2015stc.ca/>

COURSE SCHEDULE: THE PLAY'S THE THING

	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
1	* May 4 Monday		Recommended Rehearsal <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i>
		10-12:15 12:30-3:00	Meet & Greet, Design Presentations First Read-Through
	May Thursday	2:30 – 5:20	Introduction to the Course Sample Glossary Contribution Read: <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i>
2	May 14 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Shakespeare as Performance Observation: Rehearsal Discussion: Theatre, Performance, Ritual Discussion: Semiotics, Phenomenology, Theatricality Read: Schechner, Knowles, Worthen Due: Hard Word Glossary Contribution Select Presentation Topics
	May 21 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Early English Performance as the Object of Study Discussion: Historiography, Records of Performance Discussion: Materiality Discussion: Sample Materiality Presentations Read: Postlewait, Stern 2009, REED resources; Lin
4	May 28 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Early English Performance as the Method of Study Observation: Rehearsal Discussion: “Original Practices” Discussion: Practice Based Research/Performance as Research Read: Dessen, Lopez, Globe and ASC resources, Piccini and Kershaw Presentations 1., 2., 3., 4., 5.
	* June 1 Monday	10:00-2:00	Recommended Rehearsal <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i> – First Stumble-Through
	* June 3 Wednesday	3:30 – 5:20	Make-up Class Presentations 1., 2., 3., 4., 5
	* June 4 Thursday		NO CLASS

	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
	* June 7 Sunday in Toronto	TBA	Required Performance Option 1: <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i> University of Toronto
6	June 11 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Communicating Early English Performance Research Observation: Rehearsal Discussion: Performing Performance, Writing About Performance, Documenting Performance Sample Conference Responses Read: Schneider, Forster, Phelan, Cockett Presentations 1., 2., 3., 4., 5
7	June 18 Thursday in Stratford	*2:00-5:20 (includes travel time)	Required Conference Shakespearean Theatre Conference: Language in Text and Performance Short Paper Sessions #5-8 – Your Choice http://2015stc.ca/conference-schedule/#tab-2 Read: Lancashire 2002, Lancashire 2015, Crystal, Roberts-Smith 2015
	* June 19 Friday	8:00-10:30pm	Required Performance Option 2: <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i> University of Waterloo
	* June 19 Friday	8:00-10:30pm	Required Performance Option 3: <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i> University of Waterloo
8	* June 23 Tuesday in Hamilton	*6:005pm – 11:30pm (includes travel time)	Recommended Performance <i>The Three Ladies of London</i> McMaster University, Hamilton
	* June 24 Wednesday in Hamilton	*9:30am- 5:30pm (includes travel time there)	Required Conference Performance as Research in Early English Theatre Studies Read: Conference resources
		8pm – 11:30pm (includes travel time back)	Required Performance Option 4: <i>Henry the Sixth, Part One</i> McMaster University, Hamilton

	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
	*June 25		NO CLASS
9	July 2 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Discussion: Performance Debrief Discussion: Conference Debrief
10	July 9 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Shakespeare and Performance Texts Discussion: Shakespeare as Literature, Performance Text, Textual Performance Read: Shakespeare 1623, Stern, Erne, Worthen 2003 Due: Conference Responses
11	July 16 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Editing Shakespeare Discussion: Textual Editions, Performance Editions, Performative Editions Read: Taylor, Griffin, Erne and Kidnie, Roberts-Smith 2014
12	July 23 Thursday	2:30-5:20	Project Pitches Presentations Due: Final Project Proposal
EXAM PERIOD	August 4 *Tuesday	NOON	Due: Final Project