

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
GRADUATE COURSE**

SUMMER 2026

**ENGLISH 522 TOPICS IN CULTURAL STUDIES:
Shakespeare and Young Adult Fiction
(1.5 units)
Dr. Erin Kelly
Mondays and Thursdays, 5:00pm-7:50pm PST
May 11 – June 26, 2026
ONLINE, SYNCHRONOUS**

Introduction to Young Adult literature as an important twenty- and twenty-first century genre; focus on Young Adult novels that respond directly to plays by Shakespeare; exploration of questions about literary canon formation, connections between reading and identity, and theories of adaptation and appropriation; consideration of how and why texts by “classic” authors have been adapted for Young Adult readers.

* Students who want more information about planned assignments, readings, and projects are very welcome to write to Dr. Erin Kelly at ekelly@uvic.ca.

Tentative Text List

All students will be required to read the primary texts listed as well as the textbook *Reading Young Adult Literature* and selected book chapters and articles. Student presentations will require individual students to read and report to the class on the content of one of the monographs or essay collections listed as “Secondary criticism.” Note that underlined texts are ones that students will need to purchase. Others can be accessed freely online and/or through UVic Library databases by UVic-registered students.

Primary text groupings:

- *Romeo and Juliet* // Walter Dean Myers’s *Street Love* and Ryan North’s *Romeo and/or Juliet*
- *Hamlet* // Lisa Klein’s *Ophelia* and Michelle Ray’s *Falling for Hamlet*
- *Taming of the Shrew* // Ann Tyler’s *Vinegar Girl* and Stephanie Kate Strohm’s *The Taming of the Drew*
- General // Selections from Mary Cowden Clarke’s *The Girlhood of Shakespeare’s Heroines* and Joy McCullough’s *Enter the Body*

Secondary criticism:

- Jennifer Flaherty and Deborah Uman, eds., *Liberating Shakespeare: Adaptation and Empowerment for Young Adult Audiences* (2023)
- Carrie Hintz and Eric L. Tribunella, *Reading Young Adult Literature* (2024)
- Linda Hutcheon, *A Theory of Adaptation* (2006)
- Thomas Leitch, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Adaptation Studies* (2017)
- Naomi Miller, *Reimagining Shakespeare for Children and Young Adult* (2003)
- Julie Sanders, *Adaptation and Appropriation* (2016)

Plus selected articles from academic journals including *Borrowers and Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation*; *Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures*; and *The Lion and the Unicorn*.

* While books on the “tentative” text list that will need to be purchased are being ordered, recent YA texts have fluctuating availability. The list provided is therefore subject to change.

Assignments

Secondary criticism presentation (with written text summary and discussion questions): 25%

Final project proposal, 250-500 words (10%)

Final project presentation (with written 250-word abstract and annotated bibliography): 25%

Final essay, 15 to 20 pages (40%)