

English 360

Shakespeare and the World of Slings & Arrows

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Course Content:

This course is a study of the critically acclaimed but academically controversial 3 Season Canadian television series *Slings & Arrows*. A fictionalized account of a theatre festival not entirely unlike the Stratford Festival in Ontario, the show is a comic-drama about classical theatre in late

20th-century Canada. We will study the show in its various contexts, including Shakespeare's plays and criticism, life in advanced capitalism, the challenges and histories of 20th-century classical theatre in the Anglo-American world, contemporary television, theories of romanticism, modernism, and post-modernism, literary theory, Canadian culture and identity, and much else besides.

Proposed Texts/Television:

Slings & Arrows (3 Seasons. Available on CBC Gem, YouTube, iTunes, and Acorn Media); Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*; Peter Brook, *The Empty Space*; Susan Coyne, *Kingfisher Days*; Charles Taylor, *The Malaise of Modernity*. Selected Essays about Shakespeare; Stratford Festival; and Literary/Cultural Criticism provided on Brightspace.

Proposed Assignments:

A magazine-style review of Season 1 (20%); A magazine-style review of the whole series or critical essay (25%); Annotated bibliography (10%); A final capstone project: critical essay or documentary podcast; or equivalent project. (30%). Participation (15%).