ENGL 360: Special Studies in Shakespeare
Shakespeare on Screen
Spring 2021

Instructor: Erin Ellerbeck
Email: ele@uvic.ca
Office: Clearihue D336

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Since the early days of cinema, filmmakers have been enthralled by the possibilities afforded by adapting Shakespeare’s theatre for the screen. This course will offer a survey of Shakespearean film, concentrating on cinematic versions of five plays: Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, The Taming of the Shrew, Henry V, and Hamlet. The films under consideration range from classics (Olivier’s Hamlet), to cross-cultural adaptations (such as Kurosawa’s Throne of Blood), to recent, popular renditions of Shakespearean plots (including Junger’s 10 Things I Hate About You). In addition to examining the plays and films in question, the course will concentrate on topics including: theories of adaptation, anachronism and historical fidelity, acting and staging, and the intercultural appeal of Shakespeare’s works. The course will also provide a brief introduction to the scholarly analysis of film. Concepts to be covered include: mise-en-scène, editing techniques, uses of the camera, auteur theory, and the historical development of movie-making.

PROPOSED TEXTS
William Shakespeare, Hamlet
—, Henry V
—, Macbeth
—, Romeo and Juliet
—, The Taming of the Shrew

Films (there may be additional films added to this list with advance notice)
Romeo and Juliet (dir. F. Zeffirelli, 1968)  Macbeth (dir. O. Welles, 1948)
Henry V (dir. L. Olivier, 1944)  Macbeth (ShakespeaRE-Told, 2005)
Hamlet (dir. L. Olivier, 1948)  10 Things I Hate About You (dir. G. Junger, 1999)
Hamlet (dir. F. Zeffirelli, 1990)  The Taming of the Shrew (ShakespeaRE-Told, 2005)
Hamlet (dir. M. Almereyda, 2000)

PROPOSED ASSIGNMENTS
-In-class essays and tests.