

ENGL 360: Special Studies in Shakespeare

“Shakespeare on Screen”

Spring 2021

Instructor: Samuel Wong
Email: samuelw@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-884-2395

Course description:

From the silent era to experiments in virtual reality, like *Hamlet 360°*, filmmakers have adapted Shakespeare for the screen. This course offers a survey of Shakespeare on film, focused on five plays: *Hamlet*, *Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Henry V*, and *The Tempest*. The films will range from classics like Olivier’s *Hamlet* to cross-cultural adaptations, such as Kurosawa’s *Throne of Blood* and Kozintsev’s *Lear*, and radical reimaginings of plays like Greenaway’s *Prospero’s Books* and the animated Shakespeare series. In examining the plays and their cinematic versions, we will discuss theories of adaptation, problems of historical fidelity, changing ideas of acting and staging, the convergence of theatrical and cinematic history, and the multicultural appeal of Shakespeare. To enrich our discussion, we will also build a basic vocabulary of scholarly film analysis, including auteur theory, camera movement, epic film, filmic space, framing, *mise-en-scène*, pastiche, and point-of-view.



Proposed assignments:

Scene Analysis, 30%
Essay, 40%
Final Exam, 30%

Proposed reading list:

Hamlet; *King Lear*; *Macbeth*; *Henry V*; *The Tempest*

Please note that for this online iteration of the course, we’ll limit the number of films discussed for each play and may adapt our list of readings and viewings as time and online resources allow.