

# ENGL 360-A01 “Shakespeare on Screen”

Instructor: Samuel Wong

Email: samuelw@uvic.ca

Phone: 250-732-6202



## 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 (discussing a minimum of two films), 40%

Final Exam, 30%

Proposed reading list:

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

*Viewing film versions of each play will be required for all assignments.*