

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 3: Early Modern Literature: Shakespeare and Race: Poetry, Plays, Performance (2AN1450)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Emma Depledge

Contenu

'When we teach Shakespeare, we teach our students lessons about race, whether we realize it or not' – Folger Shakespeare Library Website

This seminar will pay close attention to race in a selection of Shakespeare's sonnets and plays as we consider: the history of 'race'; concepts of sexuality, religion, lineage, ethnography, nationality; whose stories are told and whose stories are not told in Shakespeare's texts; the language and rhetoric used to describe different characters; the actors chosen (and not chosen) to embody different Shakespearean roles and the role performance plays in constructions of race in Shakespeare's plays. We will also consider ways in which whiteness continues to dominate Shakespeare studies and students will be invited to reflect on ways in which educators can build more inclusive syllabi and encourage anti-racist learning environments.

Students will be introduced to premodern critical race studies and key works of scholarship, such as Kim F. Hall's ground breaking *Things of Darkness*, first published in 1995. The plays we will study in detail are *Titus Andronicus*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*, and students are strongly encouraged to purchase the most recent Arden Shakespeare editions of these plays, but extracts from other plays will also be analysed to highlight the fact that all of Shakespeare's plays – and not just those that feature prominent characters of colour – are 'race plays'.

Teaching will take the form of interactive seminars. In addition to traditional reading assignments, students will be invited to watch live and pre-recorded videos of scholarly presentations and pre-recorded productions of Shakespeare plays.

Forme de l'évaluation

A 10-page essay due January 31st 2022. Rattrapage = a 10-page essay.

Documentation

The plays we will study in detail are *Titus Andronicus*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*, and students are strongly encouraged to purchase the most recent Arden Shakespeare editions of these plays.

Pré-requis

Students are strongly advised to complete (and pass) 'An Introduction to Literature' before taking this course.

Forme de l'enseignement

Teaching will take the form of interactive seminars. In addition to traditional reading assignments, students will be invited to watch live and pre-recorded videos of scholarly presentations and pre-recorded productions of Shakespeare plays.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Analyse representations of race on the page and stage
- Examine whiteness
- Compare different productions of Shakespeare plays
- Interpret historical constructions of race
- Distinguish different genres of plays
- Formulate questions about Shakespeare's plays

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- Discover critical race studies and intersectional approaches to Shakespeare and pre-modern studies
- Discuss the politics of Shakespeare's plays in ways that avoid micro aggressions

Compétences transférables

- Write argumentative essays
- Anticipate ways of encouraging anti-racist pedagogy and inclusive syllabi in your own classrooms
- Explain complex and sensitive material in a responsible and respectful manner