

**ANG 545 SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES  
(3 crédits)**

**CONCOMITANTE :** ANG 140 Introduction to Literature **ou**  
ANG 245 The Narrative

**Nombre limite :** 60 étudiantes ou étudiants

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**DESCRIPTEURS :**

**Objectifs :** Se familiariser avec l'époque élisabéthaine et le théâtre shakespearien.

**Contenu :** Principaux événements littéraires. Regard sur les événements littéraires. Regard sur les événements sociopolitiques et religieux quelques peu turbulents de l'époque élisabéthaine. Besoins du théâtre, concordances du comique et de la tragédie, sources historiques dont Shakespeare a tiré partie.

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**AUTRES INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES**

Pour vérifier si cette activité pédagogique est offerte à la présente session, consulter l'horaire sur le site du Département des arts, langues et littératures à la rubrique Étudiants actuels <https://www.usherbrooke.ca/dall/etudiants-actuels/>

## ANG 545 SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

### Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of :

- William Shakespeare's biography and his accomplishments as a poet and playwright;
- the historical context of Shakespeare's life and work including knowledge of the social and political reigns and climates, the kinds of theatre which predated and followed Shakespeare and the theatre (including buildings, tours, companies, and patrons) and book printing and publishing industry as it existed in England during Shakespeare's lifetime;
- Shakespeare's contemporaries writing for the theatre such as Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher;
- Shakespeare's significance in the development of the English language, and his influence in world literature and drama;
- the significance of Shakespeare's work in contemporary culture, in particular, recent cinema;
- the text of seven of Shakespeare's plays (one history, two comedies, three tragedies, and one romance) and recent film adaptations of each of these dramas.

### Content

- an introduction to Shakespeare's world, his work, life and times;
- Renaissance, Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre;
- the categorization of the plays as histories, comedies, tragedies and romances;
- introduction, background, review and analysis of each the seven plays on the course;
- *The Tragedy of Richard the Third*;
- *The Comical History of the Merchant of Venice, or Otherwise Called the Jew of Venice*;
- *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*;
- *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*;
- *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice*;
- *The Tragedy of Macbeth*;
- *The Tempest*;
- Film adaptations of each of these seven plays

### Pedagogical Method

Classes will consist of professorial lectures, frequently and substantially interrupted by questions and discussion, presentation of film adaptations of the plays under study and student presentations of parts or adaptations of the plays for review, analysis and discussion.

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NB : Because this course will include the in-class viewing of seven film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays, students will be required to remain beyond normal class hours to accommodate the viewing of the films. Students should anticipate that most classes will last until 12:30.

### **Workload**

In addition to the reading of the works under study, the course will entail :

- regular, active participation;
- three tests/quizzes;
- a student presentation or performance;
- an end-of-term examination, and;
- a 1500-to-3000-word essay.

### **Evaluation**

Three quizzes / Tests	30%
Presentation / Performance	10%
Participation	10%
Essay	20%
Final examination	30%

### **Book Required**

*The Norton Shakespeare (Based on the Oxford Edition)*

**Web site for this course :** <http://pages.usherbrooke.ca/ang545/index.htm>