

**Spring 2017**  
**EN 667: Shakespeare in Performance Practicum**  
Dr. Michelle M. Dowd  
Mondays 2:00-4:30PM  
304 Morgan Hall

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With gratefully appreciated support and additional expertise by Professor Steve Burch of the Department of Theater and Dance.

This course asks students to think about how scholars, directors, and actors interact with, transform, and reimagine early modern playtexts when they bring them to the stage or screen. Toward that end, we will work with Professor Steve Burch of the Theater department and (in February) with actors from the American Shakespeare Center, in hopes of developing our skill at reading a playtext as a performance script.

**Required texts:**

- Simon Palfrey and Tiffany Stern, *Shakespeare in Parts*, Oxford UP.
- Arden editions of Shakespeare's plays. (NOTE: If you have already good critical editions of the plays (such as the Riverside or Norton), you can use those. If you have any questions about editions, please check with me!).
- Additional readings on Blackboard (**BB**)
- Attendance at stage productions of all plays and the ASC workshops is mandatory

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments:** (Subject to change)

**Jan. 16:** **MLK Day.** No class.

**Jan. 23:** Introduction

**Jan. 30:** Palfrey and Stern, *Shakespeare in Parts*.

**Feb. 6:** **1<sup>st</sup> half of class:** Presentation and discussion with Professor Seth Panitch of Theater and Dance

**2<sup>nd</sup> half of class:** Viewing and discussion of selections from Barton, *Playing Shakespeare*; Maus, "Playhouse Flesh and Blood" (**BB**)

**NOTE: Friday, February 10:** ASC On Tour production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at 7:30 at the Bama Theater. **Saturday, February 11:** Two ASC On Tour Workshops for students, the first from 10-11AM and the second from 11:15-12:15 at the Bama Theater. Production of *Romeo and Juliet* at 7:30 at the Bama Theater. Pre-show music begins at 7:00 both nights. All events sponsored by the Strode Program.

- Feb. 13:** *Two Gentlemen of Verona.* Will Ramsay, Will Roudabush, and Matt lead discussion on the play and performance.
- Feb. 20:** *Romeo and Juliet.* MK, Erin, and Courtney lead discussion on the play and performance. **2 Gents performance reviews due.**
- Feb. 27:** **2:00-3:00** *As You Like It.* Introductory script-cutting session and discussion.  
**3:15-4:30:** Discussion with Professor Paul Houghtaling and students from UA Opera, in Bryant-Jordan Hall; **R&J performance reviews due.**

**NOTE: Wednesday, March 1, 7:30PM:** UA Opera production of Otto Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor*.

- March 6:** *Merry Wives of Windsor.* Jacob, Josh, and Casey lead discussion on the play, translation, and performance.
- March 13:** **Spring Break.** No class.
- March 20:** *As You Like It.* Script-cutting session and discussion. Stallybrass, "Transvestism and the 'Body Beneath'" (**BB**). **Merry Wives performance reviews due.**

**NOTE:** Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* on **Saturday, March 25 at 7:30PM.** Overnight in Atlanta.

- March 27:** *Much Ado About Nothing.* Haden and Mark lead discussion on the play and performance.
- April 3:** Performance review writing workshop and editing session. [Bring to class a lengthened and revised review (you should have at least two from which to choose at this point). You will circulate your review to peer groups via email by **noon on Sunday, April 2.**]

**NOTE:** Shakespeare Association of America Conference in Atlanta, April 5-8. Resurgens Theater Company performance of *The Duchess of Malfi* in conjunction with the conference, April 3-5 and 7. Attendance is NOT required, but certainly encouraged if your schedule permits!

- April 10:** *As You Like It.* Script-cutting session and discussion. **Much Ado Performance reviews due.**
- April 17:** **Seminar Presentations:** Performance projects OR conference-paper versions of seminar papers presented and discussed in class; **Revised Performance reviews due, Group 1 (for those presenting on 4/24)**

**April 24:** **Seminar Presentations:** Performance projects OR conference-paper versions of seminar papers presented and discussed in class; **Revised Performance reviews due, Group 2 (for those presenting on 4/17)**

**Monday, May 1, 5PM:** Final projects due

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

Class Participation (including discussion leading)	20%
Performance Reviews	15% (5% each)
Revised and Expanded Performance Review	10%
Final Seminar Presentation	10%
Final Project	45%

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to abide by UA's Code of Academic Conduct and the Academic Honor Code. A plagiarized paper will receive an "F" and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course or suspension from the University. Please use MLA or Chicago style to document your sources in written work.

**Attendance:** Excellent attendance is expected in a graduate seminar and is essential to your success in this course. We expect you to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time, and to participate actively in our discussions. Please inform Professor Dowd if you will be unable to attend class because you are participating in a conference or if you have a serious illness or emergency.

**Performance Reviews:** You will write three 500-700-word (approximately 2-3 pages, double-spaced) performance reviews of your choice (deadlines for each option are listed on the syllabus). Reviews should demonstrate that you are thinking of the productions as a director would. What worked, what didn't, and (most importantly) why? You will then revise and expand one of your reviews to produce a 1000-1400-word (approximately 5-6 pages, double-spaced) review (your ideal goal should be a review suitable for publication in a scholarly venue such as *Shakespeare Bulletin*). We will workshop drafts of your revised reviews in class on April 3.

**Final Project:** You may either 1) write and produce a 20-30-minute performance directly related to the course's subject matter or 2) write a 15-20-page essay (plus a bibliography or list of works cited) on a performance or interpretive topic of your choice related to the plays, productions, readings, and exercises assigned in the class.

**Social Media:** The Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies at the University of Alabama sponsors and promotes numerous Renaissance-related events each semester. We invite you to like our Facebook Page ("Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies") and/or follow us on Twitter (handle: @hudstrode). We also encourage you to like The University of Alabama Opera Theatre's Facebook page so that you can get updates about the *Merry Wives* production.