BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Spring Quarter   2024

Shakespeare's First Tetralogy

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Noah Chafets	COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks DATES: March 21st – May 23rd	Remote Course
EMAIL: nochafets@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday TIMES: 9:30am – 12:45 pm CT	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC70227 – 24S1

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we'll discuss the first tetralogy of English histories that Shakespeare wrote for the stage – *Henry VI, Parts 1-3* and *Richard III*. This is called the "first" tetralogy because it was written and produced earlier, but Shakespeare's second tetralogy – the so-called "Henriad" – is a prequel. The first tetralogy depicts events from the death of Henry V in 1422 through the end of the War of the Roses in 1485, when Henry Tudor became King Henry VII. Among Shakespeare's plays the first tetralogy holds special interest as a sprawling and continuous historical narrative, and as an origin story of the Tudor dynasty, whose final sovereign, Queen Elizabeth I, reigned from before Shakespeare's birth until after his tetralogies were first produced.

Following the order of events in the plays, this course is a sequel to a 2023 course on the Henriad. But the first tetralogy stands on its own – its popularity was largely responsible for the boom in history plays in 1590s England – and all interested students are welcome.

We'll discuss two acts per class meeting. I'll provide written questions to serve as starting points for class discussions, but there is no fixed agenda or methodology for the course apart from the aim to discover whatever we can about these plays through close reading and probing conversation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

1. *King Henry VI, Part 1*. Edited by Edward Burns. Arden Shakespeare. Third Series. 2000. ISBN 978-1903436431.
2. *King Henry VI, Part 2*. Edited by Ronald Knowles. Arden Shakespeare. Third Series. 1999. ISBN 978- 1903436639.
3. *King Henry VI, Part 3*. Edited by John D. Cox and Eric Rasmussen. Arden Shakespeare. Third Series. 2001. ISBN 978-1903436318.
4. *King Richard III*. Edited by James R. Siemon. Arden Shakespeare. Third Series. 2009. ISBN 978-1903436899.

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 March 21	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 1*, Acts 1-2
WEEK 2 March 28	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 1*, Acts 3-4
WEEK 3 April 4	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 1*, Act 5; *Henry VI Part 2*, Act 1
WEEK 4 April 11	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 2*, Acts 2-3
WEEK 5 April 18	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 2*, Acts 4-5
WEEK 6 April 25	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 3*, Acts 1-2
WEEK 7 May 2	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 3*, Acts 3-4
WEEK 8 May 9	Shakespeare	*Henry VI Part 3*, Act 5; *Richard III*, Act 1
WEEK 9 May 16	Shakespeare	*Richard III*, Acts 2-3
WEEK 10 May 23	Shakespeare	*Richard III*, Acts 4-5

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.