Shakespeare’s First Tetralogy

INSTRUCTOR | DATES AND TIMES | LOCATION
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Noah Chafets | COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks DATES: January 5th – March 8th | Remote Course

EMAIL: nochafets@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message

DATE OF THE WEEK: Friday TIMES: 9:30am – 12:45 pm CT

COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC70227 24W1

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


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

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<th>DAY</th>
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| WEEK 1  
Jan 5 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 1, Acts 1-2* |
| WEEK 2  
Jan 12 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 1, Acts 3-4* |
| WEEK 3  
Jan 19 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 1, Act 5; Henry VI Part 2, Act 1* |
| WEEK 4  
Jan 26 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 2, Acts 2-3* |
| WEEK 5  
Feb 2 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 2, Acts 4-5* |
| WEEK 6  
Feb 9 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 3, Acts 1-2* |
| WEEK 7  
Feb 16 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 3, Acts 3-4* |
| WEEK 8  
Feb 23 | Shakespeare | *Henry VI Part 3, Act 5; Richard III, Act 1* |
| WEEK 9  
March 1 | Shakespeare | *Richard III, Acts 2-3* |
| WEEK 10  
March 8 | 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.