

Course Description

Current popular literature and film are often inspired by historical literary sources, especially Shakespeare's plays. This course will examine *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as envisioned by Shakespeare and as reinterpreted in film and in literature. The core issue we will explore is the relation of text to produced work. When does an interpretation of a play become an adaptation? What do we mean when we allude to the integrity of an author's work? Related topics may include as how content relates to form, literary or dramatic; how our modern sensibility and our historical and cultural biases affect our perception of the work; and how the liberties that Shakespeare may have taken with his source material compare to those taken currently with his works.

Course Requirements

Class attendance is required. Each unexcused absence will lower your final grade one-half letter. All assignments are due on the date listed in the syllabus. There will be no extensions on written assignments. The only exceptions to these rules are family or personal emergency and religious observances covered by university policy. Class participation will be a factor in the final grade. In addition to regular class attendance, there will be required film showings and individual conferences with the instructors. This class will uphold all University policies regarding academic integrity, discrimination, plagiarism, observance of religious holidays, and assistance with student impairment.

Course Materials

This course requires six texts:

- Card, *Magic Street*
- Feist, *Faerie Tale*
- Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*
- Osborne, *Stage Fright on a Summer Night*
- Trimble, *Writing with Style*
- Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

In addition students are strongly encouraged to purchase a good English dictionary and thesaurus. The instructors recommend a traditional thesaurus format rather than dictionary style. The course will also use a variety of resources including readings distributed in class or posted on Blackboard and films that we will view outside of class. The films will also be on reserve in Olin library. The Blackboard site can be found at: [http:// blackboard.cornell.edu/](http://blackboard.cornell.edu/). Use your net ID and password to log in.

Assignments and Grading

Our writing this term will take four distinct forms. The first is an online collaboration that you will share with your teachers and among yourselves. This is an opportunity to

explore the issues we raise in class. Full credit will be given for completion. We will also have weekly assignments in different types of writing that we will be working with in class and revising. Throughout the semester we will also be developing and writing a research paper. Finally you will turn in a portfolio of polished writings at the end of the semester. While the particulars of the assignments are subject to change, the final grade will be calculated from the components as follows:

- Forum and Participation 15%
- Weekly Assignments 40%
- Research Prewriting 25%
- Writing Portfolio 20%

Weekly Assignments:

- A. Initial Reactions
- B. Writing on *Midsummer*
- C. Shakespeare in Film
- D. Theatre vs. Film
- E. Genre Writing
- F. Metaphor and Visual Language
- G. Film Review
- H. Adaptation

Research Prewriting:

- I. Topic Description/Thesis
- II. Annotated Bibliography
- III. Introduction and Thesis
- IV. Free Writing
- V. Initial Draft
- VI. Revised Draft

Assignment Format

All assignments are to be typed. Handwritten papers will not be accepted (with the exception of in-class writing). Only university-wide computer crashes are acceptable ground for failure to complete an assignment on time. Standard word count is 250 words per double-spaced page. Use only font styles and sizes that approximate this word count (generally 10 or 12 point, depending on the font). Choose fonts that are clear and readable. Use MLA standards for all citations. Bring one copy of each assignment to class on the due date. We will use this for in-class work as well as for evaluation. In addition submit a copy of the assignment to the Blackboard Dropbox. The electronic submission will be used for grading. Writing completed through electronic media (i.e. email or discussion board) will be held to the same standards of proper usage and clarity. Finally all writing submitted in this course is considered public domain and may be shared amongst the class unless there is an approved request to the contrary.

Schedule and Office Hours

Below is a tentative outline for the semester. While subject to change, it should allow you to plan your work. Please note the pace that will be working is quite fast in this condensed summer session and plan accordingly. The reading assignments are chapters from the Trimble text unless noted. Note that office hours are immediately following class on Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are highly encouraged to make use of these times to discuss issues raised in class, work on assignments, or otherwise process your experience.

<u>Monday</u> <i>Discuss Articles</i> Discussion	<u>Tuesday</u> <i>Discuss Films</i> Readings	<u>Wednesday</u> <i>Mechanics</i> Research	<u>Thursday</u> <i>Discuss Issues</i> Assignments	<u>Friday</u> <i>Work on Writing</i> Revisions
Introduction Discussion	Workshop A Discourse A	<i>Midsummer</i> <i>B (In class)</i>	Discuss <i>Hoffman</i>	Film Vocabulary B rev
INDEPENDENCE DAY NO CLASS	Shakespeare in Film Discuss <i>Lane</i>	Discuss <i>Allen Stage Fright Gaiman</i> C	Ch. 1-3 Developing Cruxes/Theses I	Adaptation and Interpretation
Library/Research Tour Discuss <i>Orgel</i>	Discuss <i>Papp Magic Street 1-14</i>	Agency Passive Voice II	Ch. 4-6 Theatre and Film D	Writing in an Idiom/Voice E (memo)
Support/Evidence Arguments Discuss <i>Langer</i>	Discuss <i>Noble Magic Street all</i>	Revision Strategies III	Ch. 7-11 Language of Metaphor F	D rev IV (In class)
Organization Discovery Discuss <i>Sontag</i> IV rev	Discuss <i>Reinhardt</i> Look at Reviews <i>Feist</i> E	Writing at the Sentence Level V	Ch. 12-end Universality G	Introductions Conclusions F rev
Final Reflections Discuss <i>Osbourne</i>	Discuss <i>O'Haver</i> Workshop Research Paper <i>Feist all</i> H	Choose Portfolio Pieces VI	Work on Portfolios	Wrap up

Portfolio Due

Film Showings: Film showings will be 7:00 every Monday at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts with the following two exceptions. The first week's showing will be announced in class, and the second week's showing will be on Tuesday due to the Independence Day holiday.