



Module Specification

Shakespeare's Heroes and Villains

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Shakespeare's Heroes and Villains

Module code: UPGNCN-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: English

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This text will invite students to explore and critically respond to a range of Shakespeare's dynamic texts, with a specific focus on his representations of heroism and villainy.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module is designed to enable you to comprehend, appreciate and enjoy selected histories and tragedies by William Shakespeare.

Outline syllabus: A main focus will be on Shakespeare's dramatic and linguistic articulation of heroism (often associated with the figure of the king or general) and villainy (often associated with various challenges to legitimate authority). We will pay close attention to the richness, complexity, and occasional ambiguity, of these articulations. We shall also consider the plays' heroes and villains in the light of broader topics concerning history, nation, gender, and power. A significant context for us is Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince*, and certain of the contentious and culturally influential views contained in this text (such as on the relationship between politics and morality, and the unpredictability of fortune) will be explored for the light they shed on Shakespeare's drama.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Teaching is by one three-hour lectional per week, comprising, broadly-speaking, a lecture, seminar, and workshop. The lecture will focus on supplying key information, encouraging you to engage with the texts and issues at a progressively more demanding level, and suggesting routes for further study. The seminar part of the session will concentrate on facilitating group discussion, often on the basis of work prepared in advance by you individually. The workshop will provide opportunities for you to carry out various practical exercises that will enable you to apply, or to test out, the knowledge gained earlier in the session. Whilst emphasis in the lectionals is on the textual nature of Shakespeare's work, we shall also consider various performance issues and watch, discuss, and compare clips from certain film and stage adaptations, and this is likely to take place in the workshop part of the session.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate a knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of a range of Shakespeare's texts and relevant early modern co-texts

MO2 Demonstrate the ability to engage closely and technically with the language (rhetorical strategies, imagery, syntax, tone, etc.) of Shakespeare's texts

MO3 Demonstrate an awareness of the dramatic aspects of Shakespeare's texts and of the broader context of stage conventions in the early modern period

MO4 Demonstrate an understanding of the early modern contexts and debates that impact on Shakespeare's writing, and to which his texts contribute

MO5 Demonstrate an informed overview of the history of late-twentieth early twenty-first century Shakespearean criticism and the ability to engage critically with selected instances of this that are relevant to the texts studied on the module

MO6 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the cultural value of Shakespeare from the early modern period to the present day

MO7 Demonstrate a competence in conducting a range of forms of research, including the use of resources, and the ability to produce work that conforms to standards of scholarly presentation, including accurate referencing and bibliographical citations

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The learning outcomes envisaged for the module will be tested by means of a 2,500-word written assignment. Students will be able to write an essay focusing in detail on one of a range of topics whilst bringing into productive

relation two or more plays studied during the course of the module. Alternatively, students will be able to produce a portfolio of shorter pieces, which may include a review of a film adaptation, an anthology of extracts with introduction and close reading, and/or a creative piece alongside a critical reflection.

The assignment tests your ability to construct and sustain a coherent and persuasive response to the materials of the module. Given the specific nature of the tasks, plagiarism would be noticeable and ineffective.

This assignment tests:

Your understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's writing, building on the key skill of close reading first learned at level 1 and developed during the course of the present module.

Your ability to develop and maintain a critical argument with supporting use of aptly chosen primary and secondly quotation.

Your ability to conduct scholarly research and to produce writing that conforms to standards of scholarly presentation.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written assignment (2,500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written assignment (2,500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English and History [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2022-23

English and History [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2022-23

English and History {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2021-22

English and History [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2021-22

English and History {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature with Writing [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

English Literature [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

English Literature {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature with Writing [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature with Writing {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature with Writing {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Literature with Writing [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21