

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki • School of English
Department of English Literature

**Lit 6-479 Contemporary Shakespeares:
Adaptations and Appropriations**

Spring Semester 2025-26

Thursday, 16:00-18:30, Room H, New Philosophy Building (ground floor)

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou

WHAT THIS COURSE IS ABOUT

This hands-on seminar class is as much about Shakespeare as it is about other authors, creators, and works—or Shakespop—that have reverberated his themes, characters, stories, or language in ways that challenge the fixed image of Shakespeare as a canonical English writer. We will explore the ways in which Shakespeare’s plays have been adapted and appropriated for the theatre and the screen, as well as within popular culture, in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

By combining close readings of the plays with analysis of the processes, ideologies, and methodologies of their adaptation, the course approaches the originary text not as a privileged authority, but as one that undergoes a constant process of rewriting and disruption.. While we will focus on how adaptations open up new perspectives on the written texts and generate a plurality of meanings, students will also be invited to experiment with new ways of thinking and writing about Shakespeare, including creating and presenting their own adaptations of his works.

How This Course Is Organized

This is as a workshop for a small number of students. Special emphasis will be placed on the plays as performance texts, and our work will be largely interactive and experiential, encouraging creativity and initiative. Students interested in enrolling should bear in mind that ***regular class attendance, active participation, and group work are essential, and that their overall evaluation will be based on these components, as there is no final exam.***

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to :

- ① critically compare and contrast a Shakespearean text with its adaptations or appropriations;
- ② understand adaptation as a multidirectional cultural process;
- ③ analyse adaptations and appropriations in their political, social, and cultural contexts;
- ④ create and present their own adaptation of a Shakespearean text.

ASSESSMENT

Class attendance, active participation in class activities and group work are of high importance in this workshop. As 60% of the coursework depends on live participation, it is essential that students attend regularly and do not miss more than three classes. It should be noted, however, that the aim is *not* to make attendance merely mandatory, but enjoyable, so that students look forward to coming to class out of interest rather than obligation.

Since there will be no final exam, assessment will be based on in-class participation, reflective paragraphs or reviews, the preparation and implementation of an adaptation project, and a written report on the project (approximately 2,000 words).

Each component will count as follows:

In-class participation and group work: 30%

Preparation and implementation of the project: 30%

Reflective paragraphs/reviews and final project report: 40%

WHO CAN REGISTER

This small workshop class is designed for ***fourth- and third-year*** students. Students who have attended Lit 6-472 on Shakespeare are also welcome.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration for this course will not be conducted via sis.auth.gr. Students may apply by filling in the following form <https://forms.gle/YnFA5gu1wr221XT1A>, as soon as possible, and no later than ***February 9***.