

ENGL 3331

Intersectional Shakespeare: Power and Politics on the Stage



Figure 1 Performance of Henry V by the Virginia Shakespeare Company.

Days: M W 2:00 – 3:15

Room: Business Library Hall 262

Instructor: Dr. Alex Fairbanks-Ukropen

Email: aukropen@tamusa.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 4:00-6:00pm Classroom Hall 314j, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In addition to introducing Shakespeare's major genres, this course invites students to consider Shakespeare's cultural status, to ask how social difference informs his works, and to study adaptations and appropriations of Shakespeare in diverse contexts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Drawing on American legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw's concept of "intersectionality," that is the intersection of identities that work in tandem to create unique experiences of advantage and disadvantage, this course will examine how Shakespeare's plays incorporate, communicate, and complicate representations of class, gender, race, and other social identities in relation to power, be that power in governance, relationships, or warfare. We will examine Shakespeare's plays both in relation to the historical moments they were constructed in, and how his work has been more recently adapted to showcase how they can remain relevant and illuminating commentaries on society.

WRITING INTENTIONAL (WI):

This course is Writing Intentional (WI). This means we will focus on the writing and revision process and take time to work and collaborate on assignments in class. Throughout the course, you will employ writing to better understand Shakespeare's plays and their continued impact on societies. To that end, you will complete multiple writing assignments, both low and high stakes and in various genres, and you will have ample opportunities for revision in response to peer and instructor feedback.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Any version of the following plays that uses Shakespeare's original language:

Othello
Henry V
Richard III
Twelfth Night

The Norton Shakespeare or Folger's edition (which can be found for free here: <https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/>) are excellent choices. You may use other

versions (ex. No Fear Shakespeare, summaries) to help you understand the text, but you may not use these as substitutions.

All other readings will be available through Blackboard.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- **Gain familiarity with Shakespeare’s major genres, historical context, and cultural impact.**
- **Develop oral and written communication skills, including rigorous analysis, close reading, and academic, thesis-driven argumentation.**
- **Establish the ability to analyze and articulate the significance of adaptations of Shakespeare’s works, particularly as commentary on intersectional issues.**
- **Learn to collaborate with a group of peers, developing teamwork skills in an academic setting.**
- **Practice creative planning and problem solving through the process of drafting, writing, and presenting.**

IMPORTANT FALL 2026 DATES:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

AI POLICY:

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

ENGL 3331 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

NOTE: You may use spell and grammar-check functions such as those available from Grammarly. However, any generated content (such as significant changes suggested by Grammarly Pro) is not permitted. One of the goals of this course is to develop critical and creative thinking, and using AI-generated content takes away from that process.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Journals (300-500-word low-stakes writing assignments): 20%

Paper 1 (1200 words): 20% (due Oct 2)

Paper 2 (1200 words): 25% (due Oct 30)

Performance/Presentation: 25% (reflection due Nov 27)

Final Portfolio: 10% (due Dec 10)

Grade Distribution

Final course grades are calculated on the standard scale:

A = 100-90 | **B** = 89-80 | **C** = 79-70 | **D** = 69-60 | **F** = 59 or less

COURSE POLICIES:

Paper Submissions:

All papers must be submitted online through Blackboard.

Formal essays (not necessarily journals) should be formatted as such:

- 12-point font, Times New Roman typeface.
- One-inch margins and double-spaced (no spaces between paragraphs).
- MLA style citations, with your name, my name, the class, and date on the upper left corner. **Please include a title.**
- Include the word count at the end of the paper.

See an example here:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

Journals: Throughout the semester, you will submit journal entries about a topic related to our readings for the week that they are due. These are low-stakes assignments, meant to help you generate ideas and think about the texts, giving you the opportunity to explore ideas that may help you understand the readings in a new way. You may also think of these as a way to brainstorm ideas for your major writing assignments.

Class Participation and Attendance

Because our class is participation-based, attendance is mandatory and will make up a portion of your participation grade. Since missing class is sometimes unavoidable, you will have **four** excused absences available to you this semester. Each absence beyond four may lower your final grade by one letter. Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible alternatives for extreme cases if you are required to miss more than the allotted amount. In class quizzes and assignments may not be made up.

Technology

You are expected to bring something to write with during class. Laptops or pen and paper are permissible, but please refrain from using a computer for anything unrelated to class. Excessive misuse of technology will result in an absence. Cell phone usage is prohibited, unless you have extenuating circumstances, which I will happily approve.

Late Work

I am happy to grant extensions as long as they are requested 24 hours before the due date of the assignment. Please propose a reasonable new due date (usually within a week). If an extension is not granted, papers will lose one letter grade per day late.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – SAN ANTONIO UNIVERSAL POLICIES:

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

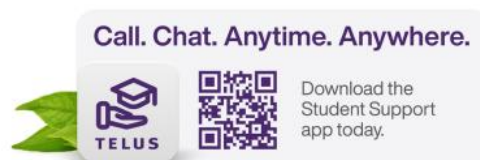
Day of the Week	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information on emergency response may be found at: Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student

receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE report for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; [click here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to

make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Aug 24-28

M: Introductions, syllabus quiz; Kimberlé Crenshaw, "[The Urgency of Intersectionality](#)" clip. Why Shakespeare?

W: Read "[William Shakespeare, A Biography](#)"; introduction to *Shakespeare in a Divided America*, James Shapiro (Blackboard). Discuss major genres, the significance of adaptation.

Due: Journal 1 on Friday @ 10:00pm

UNIT 1: Othello (Tragedy)

Week 2: Aug 31 - Sept 4

M: Read *Othello*, Acts 1-3

W: Read *Othello*, Acts 4-5

Due: Journal 2 on Friday @ 10:00pm

Week 3: Sept 7-11

M: Labor Day (no class)

W: Read "We Are Othello: Speaking of Race in Early Modern Studies," Ian Smith (Blackboard);

Why I Stopped Hating Shakespeare," James Baldwin (Blackboard). Watch *Othello* (1995) and clips of other adaptations

Week 4: Sept 14-18

M: Read first half of *Desdemona*, Toni Morrison

W: Read second half of *Desdemona*, Toni Morrison. Discuss paper 1

Due: Journal 3 on Friday @ 10:00pm

UNIT II: Henry V (History)

Week 5: Sept 21-25

M: Read *Henry V*, Acts 1-3; "A Modern Perspective: Henry V," Michael Neill ([here](#))

W: Read *Henry V*, Acts 4-5

Week 6: Sept 28 – Oct 2

M: Paper 1 workshop

W: Read "Just War and Class Conflict in Shakespeare's 'Henry V,'" Anne Marie Walkowicz ([here](#)). Watch and discuss Lawrence Oliver's *Henry V* (1944).

Due: Paper 1 on Friday @ 10:00pm

Week 7: Oct 5-9

M: Watch *Henry V* Royal Shakespeare Company trailer

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWaXF3EhS5Y>). Discuss adaptations and Shakespeare as propaganda. *Henry V* as an anti-war play (clips of Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*)

W: Read and discuss *El Henry*, Herbert Sigüenza in *Bard in the Borderlands* Volume 3. (NOTE this is an adaptation of *Henry IV, Part 1*, not *Henry V*). Discuss ways to adapt *Henry V*.

Due: Journal 4 due Friday @ 10:00pm

UNIT III: Richard III (History/Tragedy)**Week 8: Oct 12-16**

M: Read *Richard III*, Acts 1-2, selections of *The History of King Richard III*, Thomas More (c. 1513) (Blackboard)

W: Read *Richard III*, Acts 3-4, "Shakespeare Differently Disabled," Tobin Siebers, in *The Oxford Handbook of Shakespeare and Embodiment*, edited by Valerie Traub. (Blackboard)

Week 9: Oct 19-23

M: *Richard III*, Act 5

W: Watch and discuss *Richard III* (1995)

Due: Journal 5 due Friday @ 10:00pm

Week 10: Oct 26-30

M: Read selections of "Shakespeare as Propaganda: British Military Performances During the American Revolutionary War (1775-83)," in *Wartime Shakespeare: Performing Narratives of Conflict*, Amy Lidster (Blackboard) Paper 2 workshop

W: Assign presentation groups.

Due: Paper 2 due @ 10:00 pm

UNIT IV: Twelfth Night, or What you Will (Comedy)**Week 11: Nov 2-6**

M: Read *Twelfth Night*, Acts 1-3

W: Read *Twelfth Night*, Acts 4-5

Week 12: Nov 9-13

M: Read and discuss *Manga Shakespeare: Twelfth Night*, Richard Appignanesi

W: Watch and discuss clips of Globe production of *Twelfth Night* ([here](#))

Due: Journal 6 due Friday @ 10:00pm

Week 13: Nov 16-20

M: Prepare for performances

W: Performance Day I

Due: Journal 1 due Friday Aug 28 @ 10:00pm

Week 14: Nov 23-27

M: Performance Day II

W: Study Day (no classes)

Due: Performance Reflections due Friday @ 10:00pm

Week 15: Nov 30 – Dec 4

M: Discuss final portfolios.

W: Workshop Day

Due: Final Portfolio due Dec 10 @ 10:00 pm