

Subject name/code:	Aspects of Shakespeare Studies BAN-DK- 0270A
Subject coordinator:	Head of the Doctoral School
Lecturer(s) of the subject:	Dr. Almási Zsolt associate professor; Dr. habil. Földváry Kinga associate professor; Dr. habil. Reuss Gabriella assistant professor
Credits:	5
Lesson type:	seminar
Brief subject description:	The course is designed to introduce students to the study of early modern English literature and Shakespeare's work, while providing comprehensive and diverse knowledge of the methods and research questions useful for the study of English Renaissance literature. Rather than offering comprehensive lexical knowledge, it will draw on the current findings of Shakespeare scholarship to introduce students to directions and research methods that are not only essential to their understanding of modern English literature but are also useful for their own research. Among other topics, the course will address issues of textual criticism, the problem of canon formation, theatre history, women's literature, the relationship between popular culture and Shakespeare, and questions of genre history. Students will be asked to reflect on the theoretical questions raised during the seminar in the context of their own research, and write an essay based on their own research that is linked to an early modern English literary work.
Theoretical knowledge to be acquired:	The course heavily builds upon the theoretical knowledge students have already acquired in previous courses, since it builds on their studies of literary criticism. It touches upon textual criticism, questions of canonization, theatre history, women's literature, the relationship between popular culture and Shakespeare, and questions of genre history.
Practical knowledge to be acquired:	The seminar requires students to read and assess both theoretical literature and primary literature (Shakespearean plays), to discuss the plays in the context of the theoretical writings, prepare a presentation on a play in a theoretical context and to write a 7-page long seminar paper, discussing aspects of Shakespeare studies.
List of the most important required literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details (author, title, edition or specific pages, ISBN)	<i>The Arden Research Textbook of Shakespeare and Textual Studies</i> , ed., Lukas Erne, Bloomsbury: London, 2021, ISBN: 9781350080645 <i>The Arden Research Handbook of Contemporary Shakespeare Criticism</i> , ed, Evelyn Gajowski, Bloomsbury: London, 2021, ISBN 978-1-3500-9323-2 <i>The Arden Handbook of Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama</i> , eds., Michelle M. Dowd and Tom Rutter, Bloomsbury: London, 2023, ISBN: 9781350161856
List of the most important recommended literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details (author, title, edition or specific pages, ISBN)	Natália Pikli, <i>Shakespeare's Hobby-Horse and Early Modern Popular Culture</i> . Routledge: 2022. David McInnis, <i>Shakespeare and Lost Plays</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2021. Roslyn Lander Knutson, <i>The Repertory of Shakespeare's Company 1594-1613</i> . University of Arkansas Press, 1991. Christie Carson, <i>Shakespeare and the Digital World</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Theory to practice ratio:	Number of theoretical contact hours:	Number of practical contact hours: 4 hours/week
Applied teaching methods:	<p>This graduate seminar combines theoretical inquiry with practice-based exploration in order to deepen students' understanding of Shakespeare criticism. The course integrates short lectures, explanation, and illustration of key critical approaches with intensive discussion, text processing, and film analysis of selected performances and adaptations.</p> <p>Learning takes place through individual and/or group work, pair work, and structured situational exercises that allow students to test interpretative frameworks in practice. Stylistic exercises, writing and practising creative exercises, and essay writing support the development of scholarly voice and methodological awareness. Students engage in creating, presenting and defending essays or other genres, as well as student presentations and the preparation of posters, fostering advanced research and communication skills.</p> <p>Performance-oriented components include the performance of scenes, improvisation, performance observation and analysis, and rehearsal observation and analysis, encouraging students to examine the interplay between text, staging, and critical interpretation. Elements of art analysis and cross-media comparison further situate Shakespeare within broader aesthetic and cultural contexts.</p>	
Method of assessment:	Students will be assessed through classwork – active participation in class discussions is a minimal requirement, individual presentations, and finally through a seminar paper.	
Assessment criteria:	The student's performance will be assessed: - in a five-grade system: excellent (5), good (4), average (3), satisfactory (2), unsatisfactory (1), based on the successful completion of the tasks detailed above.	
<p>How the subject contributes to the achievement of the learning outcomes at level 8 of the MKKR, as identified as learning outcomes in the doctoral school's training programme?</p> <p>Elaborate on the way in which competence elements specified in the Training and Outcome Requirements are/may be achieved <i>(Note: do not simply copy the competence elements from the Training and Outcome Requirements)</i></p>	<p>Knowledge: By the conclusion of the course on Shakespeare studies, our graduate students will demonstrate a comprehensive and research-oriented command of the field. They will be thoroughly familiar with the central features, major developments, and clearly delineated scope of Shakespearean scholarship, as well as with both established frameworks and ongoing critical debates that shape the discipline. Students will acquire a sophisticated grasp of the theoretical approaches and interpretive models that inform the study of Shakespeare, together with the specialized vocabulary and conceptual foundations that sustain these perspectives, including relevant subfields. In addition, they will be equipped with the methodological tools and scholarly practices necessary to design and carry out independent research within Shakespeare studies and the broader domain of early modern literary inquiry.</p> <p>Skills: By the end of the course, our graduate students will be capable of engaging with Shakespeare studies in an innovative and analytically rigorous manner. They will be able to interpret</p>	

and reassess both overarching and narrowly defined questions within the field, integrating diverse strands of scholarship while formulating original critical insights. Students will confidently employ and refine the established methods through which knowledge is generated and scholarly challenges are addressed in their area of specialisation, adapting these approaches to new contexts when necessary.

They will also be prepared to translate abstract theoretical concerns into fresh and previously unexplored practical dimensions, extending conceptual debates into new applications. In addition, they will be equipped to conceive, design, and implement independent research projects, experimenting with and advancing new methodological strategies where appropriate. Faced with unexpected or complex issues, they will be able to identify emerging problems, situate them within their broader theoretical and practical frameworks, and pursue well-founded solutions at an advanced scholarly level. Finally, they will demonstrate the capacity to articulate innovative connections within their discipline and to communicate these insights effectively, fostering meaningful links between specialised academic inquiry and wider intellectual and social contexts.

Attitudes: By the completion of the course, our graduate students will embody a reflective and responsible scholarly ethos within Shakespeare studies. They will be prepared to articulate and cultivate those dimensions of the discipline that illuminate how literary inquiry contributes to broader processes of human self-understanding and cultural formation. Their intellectual curiosity and sustained capacity for advanced study will enable them to recognise and investigate emerging or as yet insufficiently defined research questions, approaching such challenges with initiative and discernment. Above all, they will demonstrate a strong sense of professional integrity, a sustained commitment to advancing knowledge in their field, and a readiness to pursue innovative lines of inquiry with patience, resilience, and determination.

Autonomy and responsibility: By the end of the course, our graduate students will demonstrate intellectual independence in generating original lines of inquiry and in initiating innovative scholarly practices within Shakespeare studies. They will be prepared not only to guide collaborative work and shape both conceptual and applied discussions, but also to participate constructively and collegially in joint research environments. Equipped with confidence and scholarly maturity, they will engage with fellow specialists as informed and respected interlocutors, contributing substantively to professional dialogue. At the same time, they will assume responsibility for recognising and thoughtfully addressing emerging ethical considerations connected to both the theoretical frameworks and practical dimensions of their academic work.