ENGL 4620: Literature and Film

Shakespeare and Film

Tuesdays 3:30–6:20 / Dr. Doty

This course explores the intersection of Shakespeare and cinema. Through a study of five plays, we will discuss how Shakespeare’s scripts work theatrically; how he develops character; and how he stages ethical and social problems that continue to be relevant today. We will study how directors have adapted these plays to cinema and consider the range of approaches taken: from the pursuit of historical authenticity to modern adaptation to translation into other cultures (including, Indian and Japanese). As a “Literature and Film” course, we will discuss including photography, sound design, costuming, direction, acting styles, and casting. The course culminates in a final project in which students develop their own pitches for a Shakespeare adaptation.

Probable plays & films:
The Merchant of Venice (Radford, 2004)
Twelfth Night (Nunn, 1997)
Titus Andronicus (Taymor, 1999)
Coriolanus (Fiennes, 2012)
Macbeth (Kurosawa, 1957), Maqbool (Bhardwaj, 2003), Macbeth (Kurzel, 2015)
Hamlet (Zeffirelli, 1994), Hamlet (Branagh, 1996), Haider (Bhardwaj, 2014)