

## **Sophister 5 ECTS Module Description Template 2021-22**

**Full Name:** Shakespeare in Close-up: *Henry V*

**Short Name:** Shakespeare in Close-up: *Henry V*

**Lecturer Name and Email Address:** Andy Murphy  
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**ECTS Weighting:** 5

**Semester Taught:** MT

**Year:** JS

### **Module Content:**

This module will provide students with the opportunity to study a single Shakespeare text in close detail over the course of a full semester. The play in question will be *Henry V*, which will be studied in relation to its literary and historical context; its production and reception history; and the manner in which our understanding of the play has shifted significantly from the mid-twentieth-century onwards. We will read and discuss the play over the course of a three week period and there will be workshop sessions covering particular interpretive and performance problems raised by the text. We will read one of the source texts that Shakespeare drew on when writing his play -- *The Famous Victories of Henry V* and we will also look at a condensed version of Shakespeare's text produced during his own lifetime. The final two weeks of the module will consider two very different film adaptations -- Laurence Olivier's, produced at the very end of the second world war, and David Michôd's very loose adaptation *The King*. Among the topics we will explore will be the vision of the nation presented in the play; the questions raised by the play about the nature of theatre as spectacle; the logistical staging problems presented by the play; the play's deployment as a form of national propaganda, or as a text which can effect an interrogation of such propaganda.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. From studying a single Shakespeare play in close detail students will gain a thorough understanding of the play's immediate and long term contexts.

2. Students will come to an understanding of how source texts were assimilated and transformed by Shakespeare.
3. Students will gain an understanding of the varying ways in which the text has been deployed politically over time.
4. Students will explore the logistical issues presented by the play.

### **Learning Aims:**

1. The module will foster independent thought among students and prepare them for carrying out primary research.
2. Students will come to understand how the understanding and reception of literary texts shift over time and the role of political, historical and cultural factors in this process.
3. Students will gain an understanding of the 'constructedness' of Shakespeare as a cultural phenomenon.

### **Assessment Details:**

Number of Components: 1

Name/Type of Component(s): essay

Word Count of Component(s):

Percentage Value of Component(s): 100%

### **Preliminary Reading List**

William Shakespeare, *Henry V* (any good modern edition)

Anon, *The Famous Victories of Henry V*

Emma Smith (ed.), *Shakespeare in Production: Henry V*

Laurence Olivier (dir.), *Henry V* (film)

David Michôd (dir.), *The King*

Please note:

- **Curricular information is subject to change.**
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**