

Junior Fresh module: Shakespeare

Credits: 5 ECTS

Term: Michaelmas

Coordinator: Andy Murphy, andrew.murphy@tcd.ie

Other staff: Ema Vyroubalová; Björn Quiring

Assessment: Exam

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students will

1. have an understanding of the rationale for studying Shakespeare at university level;
2. have an understanding of the various interpretative strategies that can be brought to bear on Shakespeare's texts;
3. have a clear concept of the different genres in which Shakespeare worked;
4. have an understanding of the theoretical context of Shakespeare studies;
5. have an understanding of the global context of Shakespeare studies;
6. be able confidently and convincingly to discuss with their peers their ideas regarding the texts under study;
7. be able to write fluent and informed essays about the Shakespeare plays covered in the module.

Module Description:

This module will offer an introductory survey for fresher students. It will begin by asking why Shakespeare is still considered a writer worth studying, four hundred years after his death – and why his work tends to be given a particular prominence within English Studies. Potential different approaches to studying his texts will be mapped out and considered. A selection of texts will then be examined over the course of the term, covering all of the main genres and all periods of the canon. The module will conclude by considering the question of how the study of Shakespeare's plays relates to theoretical issues more generally, before finally opening outward to consider the global context of Shakespeare dissemination and study.

Module Outline:

Week	Text/Topic	Lecturer
1	Introduction: Why Shakespeare?	AM
2	Approaches to Shakespeare	AM, EV, BQ
3	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	AM
4	<i>Richard III</i>	BQ
5	<i>Richard II</i>	EV
6	<i>Measure for Measure</i>	EV
7	Reading week	
8	<i>Macbeth</i>	AM
9	<i>King Lear</i>	BQ
10	<i>The Tempest</i>	AM
11	Shakespeare and Theory	BQ
12	Shakespeare Around the World	EV