

Teaching Shakespeare

Bringing the Bard Into the Contemporary Classroom

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE DATES: July 14-17, 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at providing active and engaging classroom approaches to language arts and theatre teachers and others who teach Shakespeare's text - or really any classical texts. It's all about speaking, hearing, and seeing the text on its feet rather than simply reading it. The course will teach you how to create learning activities to get your students out from behind their desks and explore connections to contemporary themes, characters, and stories that keep your students' attention and help them find relevance in classical literature texts.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Teachers in English Language Arts and/or Theatre or who teach Shakespeare in other forms or classes:

- Those who may be anxious about teaching Shakespeare.
- Those who want to better understand Shakespeare's writing tools.
- Those who are willing to adopt an active, performative, student-centered mindset in approaching teaching Shakespeare and other classical texts in the classroom.
- Those who would like to explore how to use simple performance tools/techniques to actively engage students with Shakespeare's texts.
- Those who are seeking to fulfill English or Theatre endorsement requirements/competencies such as: ELA - Critically Interpreting Texts and Speaking and Listening; Theatre - Contextualize Dramatic Text: Script Analysis and Theatre History

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will be able to demonstrate their understanding of teaching Shakespeare in the classroom by participating in various exercises and activities surrounding Shakespeare's text and exploring the curriculum created by the instructor.

- This course will consist of direct instruction, interaction with Festival company, learning activities and assessments that can be replicated by participants in Language Arts classes, Theatre classes, or other authentic educational settings.
- The instructor will incorporate pedagogy principles and demonstrate instructional strategies while teaching methodology; lesson planning evidence, handouts, and assessments will be provided as resources for participants.
- All course materials and instruction will be practical and shared with teachers so they can take them directly back to the classroom and make them applicable for their teaching situation and students.

COURSE DAILY OUTLINE & SCHEDULE *This schedule is tentative and subject to change.*

Daily coursework will include:

- Direct instruction/lesson plans about the concepts learned
- Work with specific script/text examples
- Viewing and analysis of Festival productions
- Modeling/workshop instruction and/or process discussion with Festival actors
- Participation in Festival production seminars
- Directions for warm-ups, exercises, learning activities, and other curriculum ideas

DAY 1

Outcome: Participants will be introduced to the course and Shakespeare's context and explore classical text, language, and tools as well as prepare for viewing USF productions.

- 9:00 am - 12:30 pm - Introduction to the course, instructor, and the Bard: Shakespeare in the classroom context – CREATIVE approaches to teaching Shakespeare and removing the desk to get classical language into young people's mouths, minds, and bodies
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm - Lunch Break
- 1:30 - 4:00 pm - Explore elements of Shakespeare's Toolbox: Clues - get students working like detectives to discover objective and subjective textual clues
- 4:00 - 4:30 pm - Pre-production work for *Macbeth*
- 8:00 pm curtain Engelstad Theatre – *Macbeth* production

DAY 2

Outcome: Participants will be introduced to the USF seminars and active production analysis techniques as well as examine scansion and characterization in text.

- 10:00 - 10:30 am - Morning seminar on *Macbeth*
- 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Guest Artist – USF actor from *Macbeth* & class production analysis
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm - Lunch Break
- 1:30 - 4:00 pm - Explore elements of Shakespeare's Toolbox: Textwork - get students working like adventurers to explore scansion and characterization
- 4:00 - 4:30 pm - Pre-production work for *Antony and Cleopatra*
- 8:00 pm curtain Engelstad Theatre – *Antony and Cleopatra* production

DAY 3

Outcome: Participants will continue seminar and analysis, study some of Shakespeare's literary tools he used in his plays that provide clues for understanding the text, and explore ways to create engaging curriculum that meets standards.

- 9:00 - 10:00 am - Backstage Tour (*optional*)
- 10:00 - 10:30 am - Morning seminar on *Antony and Cleopatra*
- 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Guest Artist - USF actor from *Antony and Cleopatra* & class production analysis
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm - Lunch Break
- 1:30 - 4:00 pm - Explore elements of Shakespeare's Toolbox: Literary Secrets & Examination of Curriculum Standards
- 4:00 - 4:30 pm - Pre-production work for *As You Like It*
- 8:00 pm curtain Engelstad Theatre - *As You Like It* production

DAY 4

Outcome: Participants will continue seminar and analysis and play with performance tools that put text on its feet.

- 10:00 -10:30 am - Morning seminar on *As You Like It*
- 10:30 am - 11:45 AM - Guest Artist - USF actor from *As You Like It* & class production analysis
- 11:45 am - 1:45 pm - Explore elements of Shakespeare's Toolbox: The Heart of Acting Classical Text & Pre-production work for *The Importance of Being Earnest* - includes a working lunch provided by USF
- 2:00 pm curtain Randall Theatre - *The Importance of Being Earnest* production