

## Teaching Shakespeare

### *Bringing the Bard Into the Contemporary Classroom*

#### COURSE OUTLINE

**COURSE DATES:** July 13-16, 2026

#### **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 and/or direct Shakespeare and/or classical oral-based literature in other forms or classes:

- Those who may be anxious about teaching Shakespeare's works or other classical literature.
- 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 texts 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. To qualify for credit, Southern Utah University requires that learners must complete 15 hours of contact time per credit hour in any given course.*

Daily coursework will include:

- Direct instruction/lesson plans about the concepts learned
- Experiential 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 and participation in 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 *Troilus and Cressida*
- 8:00 pm curtain Engelstad Theatre – *Troilus and Cressida* 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 *Troilus and Cressida*
- 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Guest Artist – USF actor from *Troilus and Cressida* & 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 *Hamlet*
- 8:00 pm curtain Engelstad Theatre – *Hamlet* 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 *Hamlet*
- 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Guest Artist - USF actor from *Hamlet* & 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 *Twelfth Night*
- 8:00 pm curtain Engelstad Theatre - *Twelfth Night* production

## **DAY 4**

Outcome: Participants will continue seminar and analysis, play with performance tools that put text on its feet, and have dedicated time to develop creative engaging curriculum for their students.

- 10:00 -10:30 am - Morning seminar on *Twelfth Night*
- 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Guest Artist - USF actor from *Twelfth Night* & class production analysis
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm - Lunch Break
- 1:30-4:00 pm - Explore elements of Shakespeare's Toolbox: The Heart of Acting Classical Text & independent work time to plan and develop specific curriculum ideas
- 4:00 - 4:30 pm - Share out curriculum ideas
- 8:00 pm curtain Randall Theatre - *Something Rotten!* production

**Make a full week of it!** Continue experiencing the productions at Utah Shakespeare Festival upon conclusion of the course (these production tickets are NOT included with the course registration - must be purchased separately with a 50% discount for course participants; immediate family members of course participants may purchase any USF production tickets this week at 50% off regular price):

Friday, July 17, 2:00 pm matinee: Anes Theatre - Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*  
Randall Theatre - the musical *She Loves Me*

Friday, July 17, 8:00 pm evening: Randall Theatre - the hysterical farce *See How They Run*

Saturday, July 18, 2:00 pm matinee: Anes Theatre - the comedy *The Book Club Play*