

Shakespeare's Outsiders:

Richard the Third, The Merchant of Venice, Othello

Time: Summer 2024. Wed. 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. (May 29 – July 17, one holiday: June 19.)

Location: Maryland Pkwy campus, 4350 S. Maryland Pkwy. Room to be determined.

Instructor: Alfred J. Drake, Ph.D.

Email: ajdrake@ajdrake.com | **Shakespeare Web:** <https://www.ajdrake.com/shakespeare>

Recommended Texts

Shakespeare, William. *Richard III*. Eds. Barbara A Mowat et al. Folger Shakespeare Library. New York & London: Simon & Schuster, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1476786926.

Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice*. Eds. Barbara A Mowat et al. Folger Shakespeare Library. New York & London: Simon & Schuster, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0743477567.

Shakespeare, William. *Othello*. Eds. Barbara A Mowat et al. Folger Shakespeare Library. New York & London: Simon & Schuster, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1501146299.

Or, you may prefer the Norton genre set: Greenblatt, Stephen et al., eds. *The Norton Shakespeare*. 4-vol. bundle. Third edition. New York: W. W. Norton, 2015. 978-0393265460. (Used editions are sometimes available for \$60-\$70 online. New, the set costs about \$120.)

Course Overview: We will cover three plays that represent characters audiences may view as “outsiders” to their respective societies. Richard III, Shylock, and Othello clearly belong in this category—Richard is a member of the royal family, but seethes at the “fair, well-spoken” times that bar him from true belonging and advancement; Shylock is a Jewish moneylender among Christians who despise him; and Othello is a valiant “Moor” working to defend a Venetian republic alien to him in its subtle, pleasure-seeking ways. We will examine these characters most intently, but we will also consider others whose status and circumstances are in question. The “Insider/Outsider” opposition in Shakespeare’s drama repays close study for what it reveals about the plays in which it is most present.

Schedule (Subject to change)

Week 1	May 29	Intro to Shakespeare.
Week 2	June 05	<i>Richard the Third</i> , Acts 1-3.
Week 3	June 12	<i>Richard the Third</i> , Acts 4-5.
Week 4	June 19	No class today since it’s the Juneteenth Holiday.
Week 5	June 26	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , Acts 1-3.
Week 6	July 03	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , Acts 4-5.
Week 7	July 10	<i>Othello</i> , Acts 1-3.
Week 8	July 17	<i>Othello</i> , Acts 4-5 and course retrospective.