

Shakespeare's Comic and Tragic Modes (Aliante)

Time: Fall 2024. Thurs. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Sept. 19 – Nov. 21, no holidays.)

Location: Aliante Library, 2400 Deer Springs Way, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084. Room to be determined.

Instructor: Alfred J. Drake, Ph.D.

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

Recommended Texts (*These editions can generally be bought used at much lower cost than new.)

Shakespeare. *As You Like It: A Norton Critical Edition*. W. W. Norton, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0393927627.

Shakespeare. *Measure for Measure: A Norton Critical Edition*. W. W. Norton, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0393931716.

Shakespeare. *Macbeth: A Norton Critical Edition*. W. W. Norton, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0393923261.

Shakespeare. *Hamlet: A Norton Critical Edition*. W. W. Norton, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-0393640106.

Or, you may prefer the Norton genre set: Greenblatt, Stephen et al., eds. *The Norton Shakespeare*. 4-vol. bundle. 3rd edition. New York: W. W. Norton, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0393265460. (Used editions are sometimes available for \$60-\$70 online. New, the set costs about \$120.)

Course Overview: We will examine the variety within Shakespeare's comic and tragic plays. *As You Like It* is a sunny comedy with a heroine, Rosalind, who helps her suitor gain insight into true love. *Measure for Measure* is a dark comedy that unsparingly explores the difficulties of maintaining civility among flawed human beings. *Macbeth* is a taut tragedy in which a warrior pursues the crown promised him by supernatural insight, only to destroy his own soul. *Hamlet* is a sprawling tragedy in which the protagonist's interiority conflicts with the revenge-command given him by his murdered father, making him anything but a straightforward "revenger."

***Note:** We will watch segments from excellent film productions, some of which contain material that some viewers may find distressing.

Schedule (Subject to change)

Week 1	Sept. 19	Intro to Shakespeare.
Week 2	Sept. 26	<i>As You Like It</i> , Acts 1-3.
Week 3	Oct. 03	<i>As You Like It</i> , Acts 4-5.
Week 4	Oct. 10	<i>Measure for Measure</i> , Acts 1-3.
Week 5	Oct. 17	<i>Measure for Measure</i> , Acts 4-5.
Week 6	Oct. 24	<i>Macbeth</i> , Acts 1-3.
Week 7	Oct. 31	<i>Macbeth</i> , Acts 4-5.
Week 8	Nov. 07	<i>Hamlet</i> , Act 1.
Week 9	Nov. 14	<i>Hamlet</i> , Acts 2-3.
Week 10	Nov. 21	<i>Hamlet</i> , Acts 4-5 and course retrospective.