

Shakespeare's Comic and Tragic Modes (Aliante Library)

Time: Spring 2025. Tue. 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Feb. 04 – Apr. 15; Spr. Break Mar. 17-23.)

Location: Aliante Library, 2400 Deer Springs Way, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084.

Instructor: Alfred J. Drake, Ph.D.

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

Recommended Texts (*These editions can often be bought used at lower cost. Consider also Folger paperbacks.)

Shakespeare. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Arden Shakespeare, Third Series, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-1904271123.

Shakespeare. *Troilus and Cressida*. Arden Shakespeare, Third Series, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-1472584748.

Shakespeare. *Romeo and Juliet*. Arden Shakespeare, Third Series, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-1903436912.

Shakespeare. *Timon of Athens*. Arden Shakespeare, Third Series, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-1903436974.

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. Folger paperbacks are also excellent.)

We will examine two of Shakespeare's comedies and two tragedies. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Troilus and Cressida* both explore the power of community to check the desires and shape the destinies of individuals. John Falstaff attempts to seduce Windsor's virtuous Mistress Ford, with hilarious results, while *Troilus and Cressida's* protagonists pay the bitter price of a fabled war that sours their love. *Romeo and Juliet's* young heroes are crushed by their ancestors' hatefulness and folly, while in *Timon of Athens*, Timon's noble, if deluded, experiment in fostering community through the power of money leaves him to end his days in bitterness against all humanity.

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

Schedule (Subject to change)

Week 1	Feb. 04	Course introduction.
Week 2	Feb. 11	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> , Acts 1-2.
Week 3	Feb. 18	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> , Acts 3-5.
Week 4	Feb. 25	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , Act 1.
Week 5	Mar. 04	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , Acts 2-3.
Week 6	Mar. 11	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , Acts 4-5.
Week --	Mar. 18	Spring Break—No classes all week.
Week 7	Mar. 25	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Acts 1-2.
Week 8	Apr. 01	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Acts 3-5.
Week 9	Apr. 08	<i>Timon of Athens</i> , Acts 1-2.
Week 10	Apr. 15	<i>Timon of Athens</i> , Acts 3-5; course retrospective.