This class examines the various sexualities encountered in Shakespeare’s work, from the Queer to the cloistered and everything in between (including Queer cloisters). In his poems, Shakespeare has been credited with inventing a “poetics of heterosexuality,” and scholars have consistently found his plays to dramatize same-sex attraction and the fluidity of gender categories. While the class will pay close attention to these examples of desire, we will also consider the place and meaning of more troubling elements within its sexual economy: rape, misogyny, sexual and domestic violence. In what ways might the seeming modernity of Shakespearean sexualities be complicated by giving place to these elements within it?

Required Texts

*Sonnets and Poems* ISBN 978-0743273282
*Troilus and Cressida* ISBN 978-0743273312
*As You Like It* ISBN 978-0743484862
*The Taming of the Shrew* ISBN 978-0743477574
*All’s Well That End’s Well* ISBN 978-0743484978

Course Requirements

Quizzes
Three papers
Class Participation
Performance Project
Discussion Posts