

**Ambedkar University Delhi**  
**Course Outline**  
**Winter Semester (January 2018)**

School:	Undergraduate Studies			
Programme with title:	BA (Honours)			
Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V)	IV semester			
Course Title:	Shakespeare			
Credits:	4 Credits			
Course Code (new):	SUSIEN236			
Course Code (old):				
Type of Course:	Compulsory	yes	Cohort	BA (H) English
	Elective	yes	Cohort	BA (H) other than Mathematics

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)      X
5. Elective

Course Coordinator:                      Bodh Prakash(KG), Moushumi (KP)

Email of course coordinator:            bodh@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites:            Interest in and awareness of English literature and some familiarity with the life and times of Shakespeare

**Aim:** William Shakespeare's plays are seemingly an inexhaustible resource for students of English. Shakespeare's plays have managed to retain a certain cultural piquancy and potency even when studies of English literature have gone through a thorough self-critique and a resultant evolution. In fact the works of the English bard has only become more and more contemporary as traditional reception of his works have given way to variety of positions and perceptions of his texts and a fascinating array of adaptations into musicals, experimental performances and films into languages far removed from the original. Many Shakespearean plays are hence of incessant and ever unfolding relevance to every new generation of students and readers. Through a close study of three of his plays, this course will look into the contemporary debates that inform Shakespearean studies and understand why and how he still manages to remain the most performed playwright in the history of literature.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

This course will look at three of Shakespeare's peerless works: *Othello*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Merchant of Venice* (a tragedy, a historical-tragedy and a problem-comedy) to get an idea into the work of his genius and the plethora of readings that they have triggered into notions of the state and the public, ambition, treachery and guilt, the politics and performance of the throne and the difficulty of inheritance, English trade practices, the trappings of law and barter and the many facets and types of unions across gender and sexuality in early Modern England. Through a close reading of the text and articles pertaining to them and generally to Shakespeare's time and conditions, the course hopes to give students idea about not just his art and legacy but also how, in spite of being invested in possibly every debate in his time, Shakespeare still manages to overcome the reductive logic of time and place and become relevant in time and cultures far removed from his. The course will look a few samples of adaptations of new performances and films based on the three works to get deeper into the issues his plays raise and beyond.

### Module 1

Introduction to Shakespeare's life and times and the ensuing debates in Early Modern England

### Module 2

*Julius Caesar*

### Module 3

*The Merchant of Venice*

### Module 4

*Macbeth*

### References:

- E.A.J. Honigmann ed. *Othello by William Shakespeare*, Arden edition (A&C Black, 1997)
- John Wain edited. *Shakespeare, Othello, A Casebook* (Macmillan, 1971)
- Drakakis John (ed), *The Merchant of Venice* (Arden Shakespeare Third Series). London: Bloomsbury, 2011. Print
- Drakakis John (ed), *The Merchant of Venice* (Arden Shakespeare Third Series). London: Bloomsbury, 2011. Print
- Mahon JW & Ellen Mahon(ed), *The Merchant of Venice: New Critical Essays*. London: Routledge, 2002. Print.
- Daniel David(ed), *Julius Caesar* (Arden Shakespeare Third Series). London: Bloomsbury, 1998. Print
- Zander Horst(ed), *Julius Caesar: New Critical Essays*. London: Routledge, 2004. Print.
- Smith Emma(ed), *Shakespeare's Tragedies*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2003, Print.
- Heims Neil(ed), *Harold Bloom's Shakespeare Through Ages: The Merchant of Venice*. London: Chelsea House, 2007. Print.
- Loos Pamela(ed), *Harold Bloom's Shakespeare Through Ages, Julius Caesar*. London: Chelsea House, 2007. Print.

● MarsonJanyce(ed), Harold Bloom's Shakespeare Through Ages, Macbeth. London: Checkmark Books, 2008. Print.

● De Grazia Margareta & Stanley Wells(ed), The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Print

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Class assignment	First week February	30%
2	Mid Semester Exam	Fourth week of March	40%
3	End Semester Exam	As per AUD Academic Calendar	30%