

Shakespeare and metaphor

Start date 13 March 2021 **End date** 14 March 2021

Venue Virtual Classroom

Tutor Dr Josie O'Donoghue **Course code** 2021NDR231

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration, Sarah Blakeney
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Josie O'Donoghue is a Junior Research Fellow in English, at Clare College, Cambridge. Her research considers connections between linguistics and literary criticism, with a particular emphasis on metaphor. She has written on Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson and Seamus Heaney, and is currently working on the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop and W.S. Graham.

Course programme

Day One: 13 March 2021

Session 1: 10.00 - 11.15am

A history of metaphor – in Shakespeare and elsewhere

Session 2: 11.45 - 1.00pm

Shakespeare's weirdest metaphors: *Macbeth*, *Othello* and other plays

Day Two: 14 March 2021

Session 3: 10.00 – 11.15am

Coriolanus: the belly fable and the body politic

Session 4: 11.45 – 1.00pm

Metaphor in Shakespeare's sonnets

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To enable students to develop familiarity with the works of Shakespeare and in particular with the ways in which metaphor and figurative language operate in the plays
- To provide students with an account of literary critical approaches to metaphor and figurative language
- To encourage students to develop greater confidence in discussing and analysing Shakespearean drama and poetry

Content:

This course will explore the role played by metaphor in Shakespeare's plays and poetry. We will consider such questions as: do metaphors belong to a play as a work of art, or the characters speaking within it? Does it matter if we don't understand what a metaphor means? Is there such a thing as a dead metaphor?

In the first session, we will consider how the term 'metaphor' is understood, looking at notable traditional accounts and definitions going back to Aristotle, and think about how it features as an element of style and of characterisation in Shakespeare's work.

The second session will focus on particular speeches and scenes in Shakespeare where the use of metaphor seems to signal something weird going on, especially at moments of great emotional intensity, such as in the speeches of Macbeth and Othello.

The third session will look more closely at one play, the late tragedy *Coriolanus*, and consider the role recurring metaphors play across the course of the play, in dealing with themes of political tension and personal interaction.

In the final session, we will look at a handful of Shakespeare's sonnets, and think about whether metaphor operates differently in short, tightly structured, though often linked, poems.

Presentation of the course:

Each session will begin with a lecture-style presentation followed by a discussion of several passages in the plays or poems, as well as general ideas arising from the subject. Students will be encouraged to participate in the discussion as much as possible.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Speak and write confidently about the use of metaphor in Shakespeare's work
- Make reference to specific moments in Shakespeare's plays and to lines of poetry, situating them in the wider context of his writing
- Demonstrate an understanding of what metaphor is and how it tends to be discussed in literary critical terms.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Kermode, Frank	<i>Shakespeare's Language</i>	London: Penguin, 2001
Lyne, Raphael	<i>Shakespeare, Rhetoric and Cognition</i>	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011
McDonald, Russ	<i>Shakespeare and the Arts of Language</i>	Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001
Shakespeare, William (edited by Peter Holland)	<i>Coriolanus</i>	London: Arden Shakespeare, 2013

Website addresses

<https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/>

Additional information

What you will need

The course is open to anyone, however it is taught via a virtual classroom. You will be able to see, hear and interact with your classmates and the tutor. In order to participate you will need to have a laptop, computer, tablet or other device equipped with a camera (webcam), speakers and a microphone.

Venue

This course takes place online using the teleconferencing software ZOOM. If you have any queries about the software or accessing the course, please contact us by e-mailing creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 09 November 2020