
	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	
	Doctoral School of Languages and Literatures	
		
	The theory and development of Shakespearean comedy	
prof. Jacek Fabiszak		
Sciences/ discipline	Humanities / Literary Studies	
Type of classes	seminar	
Language of instruction	English	
The number of hours + form of passing classes	20 hours / credit of a grade	
Puproses of classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To acquaint students with major theoretical issues linked with comedy and their place in selected Shakespeare's comedies • To look at the development of Shakespearean comedy against the background of Elizabethan comedy, esp. the so-called city comedy and satirical comedy • To analyse selected comedies by Shakespeare: <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>, <i>The Tempest</i> in light of the development of Shakespeare's craft as a playwright 	
Learning contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Introduction to the course; Aristotle on comedy, ancient comedy • 2. Theories of comedy before and in Shakespeare's time • 3. Shakespeare's comedy: a general assessment • 4. Subgenres of Shakespearean comedy; the general chronological development of Shakespearean comedy • 5. Shakespearean vs. Elizabethan comedy • 6. Late-twentieth and early-twenty-first century critical/stage readings of Shakespearean comedy: the case of Jan Kott and Needcompany's <i>Billy's Joy</i> as well Jan Klata's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> • 7. Shakespeare's early comedy: <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> • 8. Shakespeare's mature comedy: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> • 9. Shakespeare's late comedy: <i>The Tempest</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10. A discussion of a screen version of Shakespeare's comedy
Entry requirements	Good command of English, readiness to read and discuss Shakespeare's plays
Learning outcomes	
	Verification methods:
<p>In terms of knowledge: A person who has completed classes knows and understands:</p> <p>the achievements of world science in the discipline in which the education takes place, as well as the paradigms and directions of development of this discipline, in a way that enables their creative and innovative development and their verification within the framework of research projects undertaken [E_W01];</p> <p>at an advanced level research methodology appropriate for the discipline of science in which education takes place, which allows for proper selection of research theories and tools and their effective application and modification within the framework of own research [E_W02]</p> <p>fundamental dilemmas of contemporary civilization and the role of science, especially in the field of education, in solving them. [E_W08]</p>	<p>Discussion of theoretical and critical problems related to comedy and Shakespeare</p> <p>Individual oral critical interpretations of the comedies using suggested methodological tools</p> <p>Discussion of the significance of comedy and its nature in contemporary world</p>
<p>In terms of skills: A person who has completed classes is able to:</p> <p>use knowledge from various disciplines of science to creatively identify, formulate and innovatively solve complex research problems or perform advanced research tasks. In particular, he/she is able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — define the objectives and the subject of scientific research, — formulate research hypotheses, — develop research methods, techniques and tools and apply them creatively and effectively, <p>draw conclusions on the basis of scientific evidence [E_U01];</p> <p>effectively retrieve information related to scientific activity from various sources, including from sources in foreign languages, and to properly select, critically analyse and interpret this information; furthermore, he/she is able to assess its relevance for scientific development [E_U02];</p> <p>establish and implement scientific cooperation in research teams, including international ones [E_U07];</p> <p>transfer the results of scientific activity to the socio-economic sphere in cooperation with institutions from the social and economic environment [E_U08]</p>	<p>Oral presentations of interpretations of various aspects of comedy in Shakespeare's oeuvre</p> <p>Critical reading of critical and historical sources on Shakespearean comedy in the form of oral presentations</p> <p>Work in groups in the classroom on selected issues related to Shakespearean comedy</p> <p>Write a short review of a stage/screen adaptation of a Shakespearean comedy</p>

<p>In terms of social competences: A person who has completed classes is prepared to:</p> <p>critical evaluation of the work in the field of the scientific discipline within which the education is provided and its own contribution to the development of this discipline [E_K01];</p> <p>fulfilling social obligations as a researcher; initiating actions in favour of the public interest, <i>inter alia</i>, through appropriate dissemination of scientific achievements in society. Furthermore, he/she is ready to take actions leading to the development of civil society based on knowledge [E_K03];</p> <p>thinking and acting in an entrepreneurial way, creating new ideas and searching - in cooperation with people from other disciplines - for innovative solutions, as well as taking up challenges and intellectual risk in the scientific and public spheres and taking responsibility for the consequences of their decisions [E_K04];</p> <p>continuous improvement of professional competence and personal development, in particular by tracking and analyzing the latest developments in the represented scientific discipline [E_K05]</p>	<p>In-class discussion leading to potential out-of-the-classroom discussion</p> <p>Reviewing Shakespeare's plays</p> <p>Discussing ideas how Shakespearean comedy can be used as an inspiration in scholarly debate</p> <p>Developing willingness to watch stage/screen versions of Shakespeare's comedies/plays</p>
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<p>Literature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle. <i>Poetics</i>. https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/1812/The%252520Poetics%252520of%252520Aristotle%25252C%252520by%252520Aristotle.pdf • Daniell, David. 1994. "Shakespeare and the Traditions of Comedy", in: Stanley Wells (eds.) <i>The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 101-121. • Evans, Malcolm. 2001. "Deconstructing Shakespeare's comedies", in: John Drakakis (ed.) <i>Alternative Shakespeares</i>. London – New York: Routledge, 69-96. • Kott, Jan. 1974. <i>Shakespeare Our Contemporary</i>. New York – London: W.W. Norton and Co. • Leggatt, Alexander (ed.) 2002. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Shakespearean Comedy</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. • Smidt, Kristian. 1993. <i>Unconformities in Shakespeare's Later Comedies</i>. Houndsmills: Macmillan. • Snyder, Susan. 2001. "The Genres of Shakespeare's Plays", in: Margreta de Grazia and Stanley Wells (eds.) <i>The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 83-97.
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