



Course Title: Shakespeare's Tragedies: *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, and *King Lear*

Course Code: LIT 67

Instructor Name and Bio: Abigail Heald

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting days and times: Wednesdays, 7-8:50 PT

Meeting location: Zoom

The class sessions will be recorded for those who need to miss a class; however, I encourage students to participate live in our weekly sessions to gain the full benefit of the course. The group discussions of the plays are always lively and rewarding, and, whether as a contributor or active listener, best enjoyed live.

Course Features:

- Live session
 - Lecture, discussions, and Q&A
- Assignments & Coursework
 - Optional weekly discussions in Canvas
- Supplemental materials
 - Multiple film and stage productions available for each play
- Instructor will hold office hours
- Individual conferences available by request

Course Summary

No prior experience with Shakespeare is necessary—all are welcome.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Students must attend and/or watch at least seven class sessions.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
 365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
 continuingstudies@stanford.edu
 650-725-2650

- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Students must attend and/or watch at least seven class sessions and complete written work. Students may either submit three short written assignments or one longer assignment at the end of the course. Topics will be developed based upon student interest.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Required Textbooks

Macbeth
Hamlet
Othello
King Lear

While I recommend the Pelican editions of each play, any edition is fine, as long as there are footnotes.

First Assignment

Please read the first two scenes of *Hamlet* prior to the first class.

Tentative Weekly Outline

Week one	Introductions and the opening of <i>Hamlet</i>
Week two	<i>Hamlet</i> : truth, illusion, and drama as a “mirror to Nature”
Week three	<i>Hamlet</i> : justice and revenge
Week four	<i>Macbeth</i> : fate, free will, and moral agency
Week five	<i>Macbeth</i> : nature and the unnatural
Week six	<i>Othello</i> : the nature of evil
Week seven	<i>Othello</i> : race and identity
Week eight	<i>King Lear</i> : kinship and family bonds
Week nine	<i>King Lear</i> : the wisdom of suffering