

Course & Class Num: ENGL 3306: Shakespeare, 12438

Time & Location: TTH 11:30-1 PM,

Instructor: Christensen, Ann C

A wife forlorn, a merchant's family divided at sea, a kingdom reeling from civil war, a general without a war, an exiled Duke--these are some of the problems that Shakespeare explored in his poems and plays. These stories of family and national divisions, divorce, unrequited love, separations, and hoped-for restorations interested Shakespeare in part because 16th- and early 17th-century England witnessed unprecedented geographic mobility. London's population trebled over the period, with more and more people emigrating from the country; global trade flourished; colonies were founded; Vagrancy Laws forced many people to move from place to place. Shakespeare himself left his wife and family in Stratford to live and work in London. In addition to reading, analyzing (in both writing and in discussion), and viewing some film and video adaptations, our course will study contexts for Shakespeare's work. The reading list will likely include some poems: sonnets and the narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece*; a comedy, *The Comedy of Errors* or *The Taming of the Shrew*; a history play; a tragedy, *The Tragedy of Othello*; and a late romance, probably *The Tempest*. This class will likely run in a hybrid manner: meeting 'live' one day per week and doing on-line work the other day. We will use a Discussion Board via Blackboard, write two out-of-class papers, a midterm examination, and a final project.