

Instructor: Cary DiPietro

Course number: ENG336HS

Course title: Shakespeare's Spaces

Course Description:

What are the physical and imaginative spaces of Shakespeare's plays? In this course, we will seek to answer this question departing from a single premise: that is, that space is, rather than an absolute reality, a complex social production determined by values and shared meanings. Along the way, we will navigate through the institutions and social practices that have given space to Shakespeare's plays, including the printing house, the theatre and the court. We will explore representations of space in books, maps, and drawings of the theatre, and in some contemporary accounts of performance. Most importantly, we will encounter and engage with the representational spaces of some of Shakespeare's settings, the richly figurative and deeply encoded geographies of his imagination. In each week, we will consider different spatial and representational practices, including: book printing, cartography, travel writing, theatre, and dramatic writing.

Required Reading: Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *The Winter's Tale*. We will use the single-volume editions in the Oxford World's Classics series, available in the UTM bookstore. Short selections (2–3 pages each) may be included from: Plautus, *Menaechmi*; Ovid, *Metamorphoses*; Peele, *The Battle of Alcazar*; Fiorentino, *Il pecorone*; Cinthio, *Hecatommithi*; Hakluyt, *Principal Navigations*; and Greene, *Pandosto*. All selections will be available for download online.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Merchant of Venice*.

Method of Instruction: Lecture and group discussion.

Method of Evaluation: Participation (10%), weekly in-class tests (25%), annotated bibliography (25%), research paper outline (10%), and a research paper (30%).