



VIU SUMMER SCHOOL Global SHakespeare: OTHELLO's venice In THE world

Global Shakespeare: Othello's Venice in the World

July 6-11, 2020

Venice International University

Isola di San Servolo, Venice

VIU Summer School

Global Shakespeare: *Othello's Venice in the World*

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Venice International
University

Scientific coordinator:
Kevin Curran,
University of Lausanne

Course description

The aim of the Summer School is to gather an international cohort of graduate students for a week-long, multi-faceted exploration of one of the most timely topics in the interdisciplinary humanities: Shakespeare's global contexts and futures. In order to provide focus and coherence, the play *Othello*, set in multicultural Venice, will be taken as case study throughout the summer school.

"Shakespeare" is now a global vernacular—a resonant language available throughout the world as a form of self-expression and enquiry. Written at a time of incipient globalisation, *Othello* both represents and challenges the fraught dynamics of international cultural contact. By offering troubling insights into the development of the discourse of race, and by coupling that discourse to an unstable conflict between Christianity and Islam, the play speaks powerfully to our own world of religious, ethnic, and national antagonism.

"Global Shakespeare" invites students to imagine alternatives to this increasingly fractured world. Using Shakespeare's poetry and dramaturgy as a resource, it asks participants to consider how connections can be made across languages, religions, and nation states. The school's multi-disciplined approach will involve students in literary analysis, politics, and theatrical performance by focusing on the intersection of (1) Shakespeare's England and its growing interest in global connections; (2) Venice as a Renaissance site of global interaction; and (3) a twentieth-century world increasing riven, especially in the Mediterranean and its adjoining regions, by racial and religious antagonisms.

Faculty

Kevin Curran, Professor of Early Modern Literature, University of Lausanne, Switzerland; President of the Lausanne Shakespeare Festival

Rocco Coronato, Professor of English Literature, University of Padua, Italy

Kim Hall, Lucyle Hooke Professor of English and Director of Africana Studies, Barnard College, USA

Shaul Bassi, Professor of English Literature, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

David Schalkwyk, Director of Global Shakespeare, Queen Mary University, UK

Elena Pellone, Venice Shakespeare Company, Italy

Who is it for?

Graduate students (MA and PhD) from various disciplines: Literary Studies, Shakespeare Studies, Theater and Performance Studies, History, Politics, Philosophy, Anthropology, Media and Film Studies, Cultural Studies, Art, Gender Studies, Queer Studies.

Methodology and structure

Each day will begin with a lecture from a different disciplinary standpoint, which will be followed by a two-hour seminar discussion. Afternoons will be spent in the workshop where the ideas explored in the morning will be tested through embodied theatrical experimentation. These workshops will be with actors from the Venice Shakespeare Company. Notions abstracted on the page will take concrete form by getting participants "on their feet". They will use the rich variability of Shakespeare's language to try out, person to person, ideas about race and power, religion and intolerance, and humanity. Casting will be multi-lingual and race- and gender-blind in order to put maximum pressure on cultural expectations.

The course will culminate in a performance of *Othello* by the professional actors from the Venice Shakespeare Company for students and members of the public on the island of San Servolo, followed by further performances in locations in Venice, allowing the impact of the work to reach out into the wider community.

Topics

- Cosmo-Theatricality: Theater in/as the World
- On Race and Genealogy: Shakespeare and the Transatlantic Struggle for Black Freedom
- Othello in Italy: Strange Homecomings
- The Globalization of Fears toward Women and Moors in 'Othello'
- *Othello* and Global Cinema

Learning outcomes:

- A clear historical sense of the way Shakespeare's works are imbricated in a global world of commerce, ideas, and performance, both in Shakespeare's time and our own.
- A nuanced theoretical understanding of *globalism* and *cosmopolitanism*, and especially of the

unique ways in which Shakespeare's writing and dramaturgy contribute to a long tradition of thought on these topics.

- An appreciation for the way performance constitutes not only a creative practice, but also a form of applied and embodied critical thought, one especially useful for exploring the meanings and implications of a "global Shakespeare."

Fees

Students from VIU member universities

€ 650 VAT included

Other applicants:

€ 1.250 VAT included

VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

The fees will cover tuition, course materials, lunches in the San Servolo cafeteria (6 working days on campus), social events.

Student participants will be responsible for covering their own travel expenses to and from Venice, local transportation and accommodation.

PhD candidates and post-docs from universities in EU universities may be eligible for Erasmus+ mobility grant support. Refer to international offices in home universities for information. VIU will provide any supporting documentation requested for such applications. Contact VIU Erasmus office: erasmus@univiu.org.

Accommodation on campus

In shared rooms (triple/quadruple) with other participants: **€ 330,00** VAT included for 7 nights (municipal tax included).

Further information will be available in the Application form.

On-line application

Available from December 1, 2019 to March 1, 2020 on the VIU website – [Deadline extended till March 15.](#)

Admitted candidates will be notified by [March 23](#).

Payment of the tuition fee and accommodation (if requested): [by April 1](#).

Applicants must submit the application form, a short motivation letter and a curriculum vitae with photo.

Number of students:

The Program will admit up to 30 student participants.

Credits

Number of ECTS equivalence: **4**

Students will receive a certificate of attendance.

Venice International University is a consortium of 19 universities, representing 14 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs.

The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Location



Venice International University

Isola di San Servolo

30133 Venice

Italy

T +39 041 2719511

F +39 041 2719510

E summerschools@univiu.org