



**VIU**  
summer  
SCHOOL  
**GLOBAL**  
**SHAKESPEARE:**  
**OTHELLO'S**  
**venice**  
**in THE world**

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

**July 3-8, 2023**

**Venice International University**  
**Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

VIU Summer School

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

July 3-8, 2023

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 a 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 increasingly 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 (Scientific Coordinator)

Pascale Aebischer, Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Performance Studies, University of Exeter, UK

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

Alessandra Petrina, Professor of English Literature, University of Padua, Italy

Rocco Coronato, Professor of English Literature,  
University of Padua, Italy  
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. Advanced undergraduate students will also be considered.

### 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 collaborative discussion including all students and staff that features the performance of scenes from *Othello* by the professional actors from the Venice Shakespeare Company.

### Topics

- Why *Othello*? Why Global? Why Performance?
- Uncomfortable *Othello*
- The Globalization of Fears toward Women and Moors in 'Othello'
- Shakespeare and Music: *Othello* and Melodrama
- *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."

### Credits

Number of ECTS equivalence: **3**

A Certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the course.

The Program will admit up to 30 student participants.

### Fees

Students from VIU member universities

**€ 650** VAT included

Other applicants:

**€ 1.250** VAT included

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.

VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

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](mailto:erasmus@univiu.org)

### Accommodation on campus

In shared rooms (triple/quadruple) with other participants: **€ 356** VAT included for 7 nights (municipal tax included).

Further information will be available in the Application form.



**On-line application  
December 1, 2022 –March 5, 2023  
via the VIU website**

Admitted candidates will be notified by March 16, and asked to pay the tuition fee and accommodation fee (if requested) by March 26, 2023.

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

**Venice International University** is a consortium of 20 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**

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30133 Venice  
Italy

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