Shakespeare in London Program

What does Shakespeare mean today?

The course, sponsored by BADA and Sarah Lawrence College, focuses on Shakespeare’s plays and allows students to take full advantage of the opportunity to live and study in the city where Shakespeare’s works were first performed at the Globe Theatre. Students will see a considerable number of these works in performance, at Shakespeare’s Globe, at other prominent London theatres, and also at Stratford-upon-Avon.

At the heart of the course lies the fruitful interaction between text, performance and context. It also pays close attention to those cultural, social and political developments in England in the late C16th and early C17th. Contemporary ideas about racial and national identities, gender, and social class that necessarily inform Shakespeare’s work will be explored. Students will gain an understanding, both from text and in performance, of how Shakespeare is viewed through the cultural prism of our own times.

This course will be taught by scholars working on Shakespeare and the work of his contemporaries and, where appropriate, by theatre practitioners in order to enable students to forge that crucial link between theory and practice as the course progresses.

A willingness to learn and an enthusiasm for the subject matter are essential pre-requisites. Prior study of Shakespeare and Elizabethan theatre is not required.

Photographs of productions are from BADA’s London Theatre Program performances.
Classes

All required

**Shakespeare’s Plays** Explore the work of William Shakespeare, the most successful playwright of the late Elizabethan and Jacobean periods, paying particular attention to the construction of these dramas, the creation of character and to the developing use of language. (5 credits)

**Culture and Society 1580 – 1612** Examine the cultural context in which Shakespeare was writing for the Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre. How does that influence follow through to our present time? (2 credits)

**English Politics 1580 – 1612** Investigate the relationship between drama, theatre and the politics in the last twenty years of Elizabeth’s reign and the first decade of the new Stuart dynasty. What does that relationship give to our reading of the plays today? (2 credits)

**Writing about Theatre** Led by a prominent national theatre critic, the class will explore the various current performance traditions in British theatre, particularly in respect of Shakespeare. (2 credits)

**Acting Shakespeare** How does an actor tackle Shakespeare's complex texts? Discover the difference between studying the words on the page and standing them up on your feet. (2 credits)

**Space and Place in Shakespearean Production** Trace the development of theatre spaces in London; the movement from outdoors to indoors in the Jacobean period, the theatres of the Restoration, of the 18th and 19th centuries and into the present. (2 credits)

**Weekly Guest Lectures** Once a week there is a guest lecture. These will be given by Shakespeare scholars or theatre practitioners and will relate to the classes that you will take on the program.

---

**Details & Apply**

www.slc.edu/bada

With its interdisciplinary approach, the program is an ideal study abroad opportunity for students of English, Theatre, and other areas of study who love Shakespeare and want to discover more about the man, his plays, and his time, all while living and studying in the city that made him famous.

**Eunice Roberts**
Dean of the British American Drama Academy

*The Shakespeare Institute is the world’s only university research department devoted entirely to the study of Shakespeare’s works, times, life and afterlives. Some time will be spent in Stratford-upon-Avon, visiting the Institute and studying the work of the Institute’s close theatrical colleagues, the Royal Shakespeare Company.*

**Prof. Michael Dobson**
Director of the Shakespeare Institute and Academic Consultant for Shakespeare in London

---

**The Works of William Shakespeare, containing all his Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies: Truly set forth, according to their first original printings.**

---

**Hamlet**

**Macbeth**