

ACTING SHAKESPEARE
Professor Mazer
Fall 2021

cmazer@english.upenn.edu

Actual office hours (519 Annenberg Center or 113 Fisher-Bennett Hall) and virtual office hours (Zoom office: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/8848453863>): by appointment.

I. Language, objectives, action: Sonnets; Chorus and scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*.
John Barton, *Playing Shakespeare* (links to Youtube [here](#).)

II. Shakespeare's Stage and Stagecraft: *Romeo and Juliet* and [Our chosen play for the semester, TBA].

Essays and chapters by Alan C. Dessen:

"Linking Analogues," (from *Elizabethan Drama and the Viewer's Eye*);

"Elizabethan Darkness and Modern Lighting," and "Theatrical Metaphor: Seeing and Not Seeing," (from *Elizabethan Stage Conventions and Modern Interpreters*);

"Much Virtue in 'as,'" "The Vocabulary of Place," and "'Romeo Opens the Tomb,'" (from *Recovering Shakespeare's Theatrical Vocabulary*).

I. Text and Performance.

Examples from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*.

IV. Playing the Scene/Building a Play: [Our chosen play for the semester, TBA]

V. The Director: Conceiving a Production: [Our chosen play for the semester, TBA]

There will be two take-home assignments, at dates to be announced, and a final term paper/project on [Our chosen play for the semester, TBA].

Attendance:

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL CLASSES, as is scene-work as assigned. ABSENCE FROM ANY CLASS AT WHICH YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO PRESENT A SCENE, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS WITH A PARTNER WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFLECTED IN

YOUR GRADE. You are responsible for scheduling your own rehearsal time for assignments that require it. Lateness to class impedes our collective work, and is a discourtesy to your fellow students, and will be reflected in your grade.

N.B. **We will not have class on TUESDAY, Sept 7, or THURSDAY, Sept, 16.** (If you observe other religious holidays, let me know in advance.)

Potential Theatregoing: TBA . The Theatre Arts Program production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*, by Thornton Wilder, runs from October 21-24, (Opening night is free to all Penn students.) Other theatregoing, and potential viewings of captured-live performance on HD video, either streaming (via library data bases) or in cinemas, TBA.

Books: Find your own modern edition of the sonnets and of our chose play for the semester. Do NOT use a volume of the complete works of Shakespeare when we are working script-in-hand: it's too big to carry. And avoid scholarly literary editions, like the Arden: there are only a few lines of the play per page, so you'll have to flip the page too often. If you use an electronic text, make sure A) that it is modern (many free apps use texts from the nineteenth century); and B) you are reading it on a hand-held device large enough that EACH LINE OF VERSE APPEARS ON A SINGLE LINE.

All other readings are available for download on Canvas.