

**Professor Amy L. Tigner**  
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**Office Hours: T/Th 1-3, or by appointment**  
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**English 5308--001: Shakespeare and Early Modern Urban/Rural Nature**

This class will take an ecocritical approach to Shakespeare and his contemporaries, as we will study the notion of both urban and rural nature and its relationship to culture. As our study will be historical we will also be reading supporting materials from the period, particularly chronicles and tracts that discuss the landscape of both city and country. Our literary readings will include plays from Shakespeare: *King Lear*; *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*; *Eastward Ho!* By Chapman, Jonson, and Marston; and *The Shoemaker's Holiday* by Thomas Dekker.

A large part of this class will be our participation in a pedagogical partnership with The Map of Early Modern London (MoEML), a scholarly digital humanities project. Our major project will be a potential contribution to MoEML's encyclopedia, concerning the Thames River, which runs through the heart of London. I have chosen the Thames as our subject in this project because it is both of nature and of culture; it runs through the countryside and the city; integral to London but also leading to the outside world. We will be following the contributor guidelines for sites and we will either write one long article and students would be in charge of individual parts or we may be doing several separate articles—all on the Thames. We will be searching for literary references for the Thames generally and for specific places (stairways, for example) on the river. As the class has a focus on Nature, the articles should have an underlying eco-critical perspective, but we will be dealing with a number of topics, including but not limited to: river trade; the river's association with the theatres; watermen; river traffic; water life; water pollution. Students may also contribute to the glossary as they run into unfamiliar terms. The work that we will be doing is both individual and collaborative. I will mentor you through the research and writing process, and will function as a Guest Editor for MoEML. The work that you produce will be refereed by me and by the team at the University of Victoria, as it must meet the standard for publication. The MoEML team in Victoria will then encode and publish it (although those students interested in coding could also get involved in this process). The opportunity to work on a burgeoning digital humanities project and to publish a refereed article in the database will help build your skills and your CV.

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor.

Date	Readings and Class Activities	Assignments
Aug. 27	Introduction to class; MoEML project <a href="http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/map.htm">http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/map.htm</a>	
Sept 3	Skype session with Kim McLean-Fiander from MoEML Ackroyd, <i>Thames: A Biography</i> : pp. 1-186, 399-441 Blackfriars article on MoEML <a href="http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/BLAC6.htm">http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/BLAC6.htm</a> Ward, "The Taming of the Thames"	Ideas about articles
Sept 10	Visit to rare books—maps archives Ackroyd, <i>Thames</i> pp.187-306, 399-441	Groups A and B: Blog post due Article ideas chosen

Sept 17	Ackroyd, <i>Thames</i> pp. 306-398 Weightman <i>London's Thames</i> : Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.5. 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 25.	Group A: Commentary Due
Sept 24	<i>King Lear</i> ; Traub "The Nature of Norms"	Group B: Commentary Due
Oct.1	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> ; Nardizzi, "'Come will this wood take fire'..";	Group A: Commentary Due
Oct. 8	<i>Eastward Ho!</i> ; Janicka-Świdarska, "London and Londoners"	Group B: Commentary Due
Oct. 15	Group Writing day MoEML	Groups A and B: Blog post due
Oct. 22	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Borlik "Fairy-Lore as Folk Entomology in <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> "	Group A: Commentary Due 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft of Short articles for MoEML due
Oct. 29	<i>The Shoemaker's Holiday</i> ; Franssen "Sites of Transgression"	Group B: Commentary Due
Nov. 5	<i>As You Like It</i> ; Watson "As You Liken It"	Group A: Blog post due Final Draft of Short articles due
Nov.12	<i>The Tempest</i> ; Borlik "Caliban and the Fen Demons"	Group B: Blog post due
Nov.19	Writing workshop for MoEML	Draft of Long article for MoEML due
Nov. 26	Review for Exam	
Dec. 3	MoEML presentations	Final Draft of MoEML article due

Assignments:

3 blog posts 10%

3 short commentaries (500 words) 30%

1 presentation/discussion leading 10%

1-2 short encyclopedic articles for MoEML 20%

Long article or portion of article for MoEML 30%

Highlighted citations are ones that you will need to purchase.

Ackroyd, Peter. *Thames: The Biography*. New York: Anchor Books, 2007.

Borlik, Todd. "Caliban and the Fen Demons of Lincolnshire: The Englishness of Shakespeare's *Tempest*." *Shakespeare 1* (2013): 21-51.

———. "'Fairy-Lore as Folk Entomology in a *Midsummer Night's Dream*.'" 2013.

Dekker, Thomas. *The Shoemaker's Holiday*. Edited by Jonathan Gil Harris. London: Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2008.

Franssen, Paul J. C. M. "Sites of Transgression: The Suburbs and the City in Thomas Dekker's *Shoemaker's Holiday*." *SEDERI: Yearbook of the Spanish and Portuguese Society for English Renaissance 22* (2012): 139-54.

Janicka-Świdarska, Irena. "London and Londoners in *Eastward Ho!* And in Other City Comedies of the Earlier Seventeenth Century." In *Images of the City*, edited by Agnieszka Rasmus, Magdalena Cieślak, , 148-60. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2009.

Jonson, Ben, George Chapman, and John Marston. *Eastward Ho!* Edited by New Mermaids. London: Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 1996.

Nardizzi, Vin. *Wooden Os: Shakespeare's Theatres and England's Trees*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

- Shakespeare, William. *As You Like It*. Edited by Juliet Dunsinberre. London: Arden Shakespeare, 2006.
- . *King Lear*. Edited by R. A. Foakes. London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 1997.
- . *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Edited by George Walton Williams. London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 1999.
- . *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Edited by Gail Kern Paster, and Skiles Howard. Boston: Bedford/ St. Martin's, 1999.
- . *The Tempest*. Edited by Vaughan and Vaghan. London: Arden Shakespeare, 2007.
- Stanev, Hristomir A. "The City out of Breath: Jacobean City Comedy and the Odors of Restraint." *Postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 3, no. 4 (2012): 423-35.
- Ward, Joseph P. "The Taming of the Thames: Reading the River in the Seventeenth Century." *Huntington Library Quarterly* 71, no. 1 (2008): 55-75.
- Watson, Robert. "The Ecology of Self in *Midsummer Night's Dream*." In *Ecocritical Shakespeare*, edited by Lynne Bruckner, and Dan Brayton. Surrey: Ashgate, 2011.
- Weightman, Gavin. *London's Thames*. London: St. Martin's Press, 2004.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance to all classes in graduate courses is expected. If you are ill or have an emergency, please contact me by email so that we can work out the details.

**Drop Policy:** Please see university drop policy and deadlines.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system.

All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>.

There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.