

HERTOG 2021 SUMMER COURSES

SHAKESPEARE'S *THE TEMPEST*

Jenna Silber Storey, Professor, Furman University

Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest*, tells the story of how the Dukedom of Milan was lost and regained, and prompts us to think about the role of the liberal arts in learning how to rule. We discover that Prospero's study of the liberal arts contributes to his fall from power. But it also helps him preside over the small society of strange creatures on the remote island where the action of the play takes place. What does Prospero need to learn about nature, authority, love, forgiveness, and death in order to bring about the restoration of the rightful line of succession in Milan? In this online seminar, led by Professor Jenna Storey, fellows will closely study one of Shakespeare's greatest plays to meditate on the kind of education we need to engage well in political life.

This seminar will meet online weekly on **Mondays** from **11 AM** to **1:30 PM ET** on the following dates: June 14, 21, & 28.

Course Materials

- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, eds. Peter Holland, et al. (Penguin Classics, 2016)

Discussion Papers: Each fellow will be responsible for completing a brief discussion paper (1-2 pages, single spaced) on a question of their own devising, which should be articulated at the top of the document. **Papers are due the Saturday before your assigned session by Noon ET.** The papers should be posted on the course Slack channel and will be part of the assigned readings for the session. Paper-writers should be ready to briefly present their ideas during the seminar.

"A question is a form of desire," [Leon Kass says](#). A good question gives shape to what it is you want to know. After you read the selection for the day, write down the questions it brings to your mind. What intrigues you? Inspires or confuses? Causes you to embrace the book ecstatically? Or throw it across the room in frustration? Start there. And articulate your reaction as a question that you can pose to the author.

Reading Questions: This course will be run as a seminar, at the center of which is a conversation that depends on the efforts of all participants. You should plan to read each of these selections carefully, at least once, before coming to class. Take notes; mark up the book. Above all, keep a running list of questions the reading raises. **You are strongly encouraged to post on the course's Slack channel those questions about which you would most like to hear others' perspectives.** These questions will guide our discussion.

Film: We will host a class viewing of a production of the *Tempest* during the course. Your TA will poll you on the best time and day for the class viewing. If you cannot make the scheduled viewing, you are welcome to view the film on your own **before the third class session**. More information will be posted on Slack.

Resources:

To learn more about the ideas and figures discussed in this course, we encourage you to explore a project supported by the Hertog Foundation: **The Great Thinkers** (<http://thegreatthinkers.org/>) and **Contemporary Thinkers** (<http://contemporarythinkers.org/>) websites. These sites are aimed at introducing important thinkers in Western thought, with a particular emphasis on politics and philosophy.

Relevant pages include [Shakespeare & Politics](#).

Monday, June 14, 2021

11 AM – 1:30 PM ET

Session I

Readings:

- Act I

Monday, June 21, 2021

11 AM – 1:30 PM ET

Session II

Readings:

- Acts II and III

Monday, June 28, 2021

11 AM – 1:30 PM ET

Session III

Readings:

- Acts IV and V