

This was an intensive course on Shakespeare's writings. Since the time we had to really work with the material was quite short, we were to read the dramas until the beginning of the course. As a consequence, this course was basically more about analysing than reading dramas.

By saying dramas I mean Shakespeare's plays *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Once we had gone through the characters, we started to find connections between the writer of the play, the play itself and the time it was written. That is why our first session was so helpful. We renewed and extended our knowledge of the Early Modern period and all its events, circumstances, famous people and other things which are important when studying Shakespeare's plays.

Depending on what the agenda was, the sessions could be more or less creative. The Edinburgh Summer School 2012 has shown that it is the creative tasks which are favoured by the students – but each group has its own preferences, of course. In smaller groups we were supposed to choose either *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Romeo and Juliet* for rewriting it. The task was pretty open because you could stick to the original text and just shorten or add something. You were also allowed to change the whole thing and just keep the plot. There were no boundaries except for two: Firstly, the main plot had to be kept, and secondly we had to give reasons for our decisions.

Since our plays have been adapted for the screen in various versions, we were able to draw on them as well. I would highly recommend watching the film(s) matching your play, and if there are different ones, do not hesitate to take a look at all of them. It helps boost your creativity; hence, your result could be something totally new for your audience. At the end of the course, we had to present our new versions. The way of presenting was our own decision, too.

All in all, I would highly recommend this course to you, especially if you are interested in the works of Shakespeare or if you are fond of working with dramas in general. The last thing you will have to do is to write a term paper. But no worries – the lecturer will give you a brief but very clear overview on how to do so.

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