

# English 230 : Introduction to Shakespeare: Love, Sex, and Gender

From Lysander's "The course of true love never did run smooth!" to Lady Macbeth's "Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here," Shakespeare's plays and poems grapple with erotic love, human sexuality, and the complex workings of gender in human experience. Writing for the English stage during a period when female roles were played by male actors, Shakespeare often explored the ways in which gender is constructed and performed, yet his writings also include archetypes of masculinity and femininity; and he fashions lovers whose passions and desires range from the sublime to the ridiculous. The course will introduce students to college-level study of Shakespeare's poetry and plays, with particular attention to the themes of love, sex, and gender. May be taken for credit toward the Gender Studies major or minor.

**Credits** 4