



SYLLABUS

The Idea of Monarchy in Shakespeare's History Plays Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study program

1.1 University	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3 Department	English
1.4 Field of study	Philology
1.5 Study cycle (BA/MA)	MA
1.6 Study program/Qualification	British Cultural Studies/MA in Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

2.1 Course title		The Idea of Monarchy in Shakespeare's History Plays (taught in English)				Course code		LME2109							
2.2 Course tutor		Prof. Adrian PAPAHAGI													
2.3 Seminar tutor		Prof. Adrian PAPAHAGI													
2.4 Year of study		II		2.5 Semester		3	2.6 Type of assessment		E	2.7 Course status		Contents		DS	
												Mandatory		DO	

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	2	of which: 3.2 course	1	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total number of hours in the curriculum	28	of which: 3.5 course	14	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					28
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					27
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					20
Tutoring					18
Assessment (examinations)					4
Other activities:					
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					97
3.8. Total hours per semester					125
3.9. Number of credits					5

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1 Curriculum	BA in humanities
4.2 Skills	Good knowledge of English, analytical skills

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. For delivering lectures	• OH projector
5.2. For teaching seminars/laboratory classes	• OH projector



6. Acquired specific skills

Professional/ essential skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interact professionally in research and professional environments; - apply scientific methods; - apply research ethics and scientific integrity principles in research activities; - perform scientific research; - manage research data; - manage personal professional development; - think abstractly; - promote the transfer of knowledge; - publish academic research; - draft scientific or academic papers and technical documentation; - write scientific publications; - synthesise information; - speak different languages; - provide information in writing
Transversal skills	

7. Course objectives (derived from the s acquired specific skills)

7.1 General objective of course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepening understanding of Shakespeare's drama; analysing Shakespeare's plays in religious, political, and cultural context.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding one of the landmarks of British civilisation – monarchy – in the period when it was consolidated (the Middle Ages) and in the period when the modern English state was born (the Elizabethan and Jacobean age).

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course 1 — Cultural introduction. The King's Two Bodies. God and the king. The idea of royalty. • Course 2 — Historical introduction. The English kings in the Anglo-Saxon period. Medieval English monarchs. Tudor monarchs. Shakespeare's idea of monarchy. • Course 3 — Henry VI Part 1 • Course 4 — Henry VI Part 2 • Course 5 — Henry VI Part 3 • Course 6 — King Richard III • Course 7 — King Richard II • Course 8 — King Henry IV Part 1 • Course 9 — King Henry IV Part 2 • Course 10 — King Henry V • Course 11 – King Henry VIII • Course 12 – King John • Course 13 – Regicide and tyrannicide: Macbeth • Course 14 – Authority and Revolution: Julius Caesar 	Lecture, discussions	
Main bibliography: Shakespeare's plays we study. Recommended edition: The Arden Shakespeare.		
Secondary bibliography: E. H. Kantorowicz, <i>The King's Two Bodies: A Study in Medieval Political Theology</i> , Princeton UP, 1956.		



EMW Tillyard, *Shakespeare's History Plays*, London: Penguin, 1962.
HA Kelly, *Divine Providence in the England of Shakespeare's Histories*, Cambridge MA: Harvard UP, 1970.
RS Pierce, *Shakespeare's History Plays: The Family and the State*, Columbus, OH: Ohio State UP, 1971.
G. Holderness, *Shakespeare's History*, Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1985.
G. Holderness, N. Potter, J. Turner, *Shakespeare: The Play of History*, London: Macmillan, 1988.
A Leggatt, *Shakespeare's Political Drama: The History Plays and the Roman Plays*, London: Routledge, 1988.
JJ Norwich, *Shakespeare's Kings*, London: Faber & Faber, 1999.
M. Hattaway, *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare's History Plays*, Cambridge UP, 2002.
R. Dutton, JE Howard (eds), *A Companion to Shakespeare's Works. Vol. II, The Histories*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.
E. Smith (ed.), *Shakespeare's Histories*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.
H. Bloom (ed.), *William Shakespeare: Histories (Bloom's Modern Critical Views)*, NY: Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2009.
P. Lake, *How Shakespeare Put Politics on the Stage: Power and Succession in the History Plays*, New Haven/London: Yale UP, 2017.
Shakespeare Survey 6 (1953) & 63 (2010).

8.2 Seminar	Teaching methods	Notes
• Seminar 1 — Introduction to research; methods	Text analysis Academic writing Oral presentations	
• Seminar 2 — Introduction to research; presenting, writing		
• Seminar 3 — Henry VI 1-3		
• Seminar 4 — King Richard III		
• Seminar 5 — King Richard II		
• Seminar 6 — Falstaff: King Henry IV 1-2		
• Seminar 7 — King Henry V		
• Seminar 8 — King Henry VIII		
• Seminar 9-14 - Students' oral presentations		
Supplementary bibliography on academic writing: U. Eco, <i>How to Write a Thesis</i> , MIT Press, 2015. W. Strunk, EB White, <i>The Elements of Style</i> , 4th edn., London: Longman, 2000. S. Pinker, <i>The Sense of Style</i> , London: Penguin, 2014. <i>MHRA Style Guide: A Handbook for Authors and Editors</i> , London: MHRA, 2013.		

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

The studied subject completes the literature curriculum required by a teaching career, as well as by careers in the broad field of culture (cultural diplomacy, cultural mediation, NGO or governmental careers, PR etc.).

- The contents correspond to similar courses taught in the UK and worldwide (Oxford: <https://www.english.ox.ac.uk/masters-programmes#collapse1-1>; King's College, London: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught-courses/shakespeare-studies-ma.aspx>). At the University of Chicago, Prof. David Bevington gives a course on the same topic (<https://english.uchicago.edu/courses/shakespeare%E2%80%99s-history-plays>)

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment method	10.3 Weight in the final grade
10.4 Course	Assimilating specialised concepts	Written essay	50%
	Identifying and describing correctly the studied literary texts and historical phenomena		

Date of approval:
Name and signature of Dean:



10.5 Seminar	Presentation skills applied to historical and literary texts and concepts	Oral presentation	40%
	Critical reaction to colleagues' presentations, class activity	Seminar activity	10%
10.6 Basic performance standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth reading of primary texts and secondary bibliography. • Writing a high-quality essay of min. 10 A4 pp. (30,000 signs) on a chosen topic. • Formally, linguistically and scientifically good oral presentation (c. 20 minutes). • Active and informed participation in class. • High English proficiency (C1). • Using AI tools for generating ideas or discourse is allowed only with the tutor's permission and with explicit acknowledgment. This applies to both class discussions or assessment tasks and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI amounts to plagiarism. According to UBB regulations, plagiarism of any type triggers expulsion from university studies. 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

	General label for Sustainable Development

Date:
10.02.2025

Course tutor's name and signature
Prof.dr. Adrian Papahagi

Seminar tutor's name and signature /
Practical course tutor's (Laboratory tutor's)
name and signature,
Prof.dr. Adrian Papahagi

Date of approval:
15.02.2025

Head of Department's name and signature,
Lect.dr. Petronia Petrar

Date of approval:
Name and signature of Dean: