

T.A.R.D.I.S.

(Time and Relative Dimension in Shakespeare II)



Thanks, BBC!

"And thus the whirligig of Time brings in his revenges." – William Shakespeare
"People assume that time is a strict progression of cause to effect, but actually from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint, it's more like a big ball of wibbly-wobbly, timey-wimey...stuff." – The Doctor

Shakespeare II is an upper-level English elective that builds on the foundations of **Shakespeare I**, studying Shakespeare's works using emerging critical approaches to early modern literature and, more broadly, the social, cultural, religious and political contexts of early modern Europe.

In **T.A.R.D.I.S.**, we will be reading Shakespeare's works as meditations on the **nature of time and place**, exploring how language, fiction, and performance can control and create these fundamental perceptual dimensions. Of course, a good sense of "timing" is a necessity in the theater, but, as we will see, Shakespeare's works are deeply interested in many different kinds of time – in the shaping of history and legend, in visions of the future and dreams of the past, in the seasonal promise of eternal renewal and the unstoppable approach of a final apocalyptic end.

Shakespeare's plays balance these broad visions of time against the intimate and immediate experience of individual moments – this action, in this place, in this now.

Our studies of Shakespeare's works will encompass early modern and contemporary theories of time, space, and perception, and include both primary and secondary critical materials.