This course reintroduces graduate students to Shakespeare’s dramatic works across four genres: history, tragedy, comedy, and romance. Each week, you will access online lectures that contextualize Shakespeare’s career within the larger English Renaissance, especially the vibrant, commercial theatre scene in early modern London, and the political climate of Tudor-Stuart England. You will then read his plays in conjunction with select criticism to give you a preliminary sense of their rich histories of performance, reception, and interpretation. And you will reflect on your learning through reading responses due at the end of each week.

As a class, our goals are as follows: to read Shakespeare’s texts in light of their historical context and identify and analyze their distinctly literary aspects; to explore the possibilities, and challenges, of performing and adapting Shakespeare’s work today; to consider current trends in Shakespeare scholarship that seek to (re)evaluate the bard through the lenses of postcolonial theory, women’s and gender studies, queer theory, and critical race studies; and to discover innovative and responsible ways to teach Shakespeare’s works in the classrooms of today.

Major assignments include an adaptation review, close readings, and a final project tailored to your interests as burgeoning scholars, creative writers, teachers, or all of the above.
Fandom represents a massive and ever-expanding world of reading and writing, of thinking and creativity, that consists of millions of members spread across rhizomatic networks. It is popular, powerful, and can function as an exemplary model for thinking about how we read, experience, and respond to texts.

This course will focus on genres associated with what is referred to as “transformational fandom”; fanworks through which fans rewrite and remix cultural artifacts to reflect their individual and collective expectations and desires. We will approach fanworks and practices—like fanfiction, fanvids, pic sets, and gif sets—as narrative and social texts whose meaning emerges from deep intertextual and communal interplay, analyzing the way in which they function simultaneously as story, interpretation, critique, and a mode of community building.

- DR. JESSICA HAUTSCH
- SUMMER SESSION I
- ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

QUESTIONS?
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Technology has been developing at a rapid pace, and it often feels like an impossible task to keep up with these changes. This course offers us an opportunity to take stock of, explore, and critique these changes as they’ve come to shape the field of Digital Humanities (DH) while simultaneously learning how to adopt an ever-growing number of digital methods into our own work. Following a brief introduction to this area of study, our course will highlight a number of entry points for how we, ourselves, might engage with an array of platforms and tools.

The methods we’ll focus on in this course center around textual analysis and will include distant reading, data visualization, and online archiving practices. Born-digital texts, ranging from databases to e-poetry, will also feature within the scope of the course as we consider how the very act of reading is affected by our digital technologies. We will be adopting an experiential project-based approach to our learning: this means that you will be engaging with a series of methods through hands-on practice in a number of low-stakes DH labs and projects. This course is designed to allow each participant of the class to pursue their own unique areas of interest while also offering opportunities to participate in established and ongoing DH projects. It will be delivered asynchronously and online.
Once found primarily in the funny pages, today comics are used in research communication, published in major newspapers to report stories, and even used in healthcare to improve physician-patient relationships. This class will look at the growing cultural significance of comics, and how the visual grammar of comics can be utilized to draw attention to the pressing issues of our time such as gender inequality, racial, disability, and environmental justice. We will look at both short and long-form comics by a host of artists including Alison Bechdel, Marjane Satrapi, Thi Bui, and Lynda Barry. We will learn how to create powerful nonfiction narratives that combine emotional appeal with the statistical, by incorporating data visualization into image-textual narratives. No drawing experience or previous experience with data visualization is necessary to be successful in this class.