

**Name:** Scott O'Neil

**Course Description:** "Cinematic Shakespeares"

Shakespearean actor and Oscar winner Mark Rylance voiced a common view of Shakespeare's plays, noting that they should be performed, and that reading them was "the last thing the author intended." While Shakespeare's texts have been passed down for centuries, they have been kept alive by performances – most recently, by cinematic performances. Since cinema's birth, Shakespearean films have raised many questions about theater's link to cinema. Why have certain plays been filmed at certain historical moments? What cultural, economic, and political factors have caused particular characters or scenes to be deleted or changed? How does reading the play beforehand impact the viewing experience? These and other questions will guide our study of cinematic Shakespeare. Potential course texts include films of *Henry V*, *Hamlet*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Tempest*. We will view several kinds of films, including silent films, animation, foreign films, and modern revisions like *Scotland PA* or *10 Things I Hate About You*.