

Seminar presentation sheet

Academic year	2018/19
Seminar n°	7
Seminar title	RETHINKING DEBT THROUGH EARLY MODERN AND LATE MODERN RESPONSES
Teacher(s) (Name, SURNAME)	Miguel RAMALHETE GOMES
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Teacher(s)' presentation	Miguel Ramalhete Gomes is a researcher at CETAPS - Centre for English, Translation, and Anglo-Portuguese Studies (Shakespeare and presentism; uses of Shakespeare during the contemporary debt crisis). He has published on the topics of early modern drama, especially Shakespeare, 20 th -century German drama, Irish studies, and Utopian studies, namely <i>Texts Waiting for History: William Shakespeare Re-Imagined by Heiner Müller</i> (Rodopi, 2014).
Seminar presentation	This seminar will start with a parallel discussion of concepts of usury and debt in Early Modern and Late Modern contexts. The participants will be asked to consider the recent upsurge of critical responses to the contemporary debt crisis, in order to use them as theoretical and experiential tools with which to approach the Early Modern experience of indebtedness and its economic theories, specifically as they appear in Shakespeare. The different effects that money and debt have on bodies and social bonds will be explored and linked to forms of resistance, from exodus to uprising. This will imply considering forms of spatial mobility in connection with economic failure, scarcity and hoarding. The ways in which these questions are dealt with in the plays will also be accounted for through a group discussion of the co-authorship of <i>Timon of Athens</i> and of Shakespeare's manipulation of Roman sources in <i>Coriolanus</i> , thus adding a third temporal layer to the Early Modern / Late Modern focus.
Prerequisites to follow the seminar	Participants will be expected to have read in depth and be very familiar with the following Shakespeare plays: <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> <i>Timon of Athens</i>

	<p><i>Coriolanus</i></p> <p>Other, less specific prior steps will be explained to the group in the preparatory period prior to the Intensive Programme.</p>
Seminar objectives /skills to be developed by the students	At the end of the seminar, students will have gained an understanding of Early Modern responses to pervasive indebtedness which, in connection with an awareness of a global history of debt, will enable them to rethink contemporary discourses about finance, debt and austerity and to actively engage in a historically grounded discussion of their effects on the bodies of debtors and of the resulting forms of spatial mobility.
Session 1 – Presentation / plan	Introductory discussion: concepts and contexts. Usury, bodies and <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> .
Session 2 – Presentation / plan	Debt and money between Shakespeare and Middleton; bodies and exodus (<i>Timon of Athens</i>).
Session 3 – Presentation / plan	Shakespeare's manipulation of his sources. From Plutarch and Livy to <i>Coriolanus</i> . From debt to famine & from exodus to uprising. Final discussion.

Bibliography:

❖ Primary sources:

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, *The Merchant of Venice*.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, *Timon of Athens*.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, *Coriolanus*.

(Note: the seminar leader suggests the Third Arden Shakespeare editions of these texts, or alternatively the Oxford Shakespeare editions, but students should feel free to bring other critical editions – should they already have their own);

LIVY, *The Rise of Rome. Books 1-5*, translated by T. J. Luce (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008). Specifically Book 2 (chapters 9 and 23-61).

PLUTARCH, "The Life of Martius Coriolanus," Spencer, T. J. B. (ed.), *Shakespeare's Plutarch: The Lives of Julius Caesar, Brutus, Marcus Antonius, and Coriolanus in the translation of Sir Thomas North* (London: Penguin, 1968) 296-362.



❖ Some secondary sources:

DAVID GRAEBER, *Debt: The First 5,000 Years* (Brooklyn: Melville House, 2012) 1-87, 120-6, 165-210.

STEPHEN GREENBLATT et al, *Cultural Mobility: A Manifesto* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010) 1-23, 250-3.

RICHARD HALPERN, "Bassanio's Bailout: A Brief History of Risk, Shakespeare to Wall Street," *SEDERI – Yearbook of the Spanish and Portuguese Society for English Renaissance Studies*, 24 (2014): 27-45.

DAVID HAWKES, *Shakespeare and Economic Theory* (London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2015).

CAMPBELL JONES, *Can the Market Speak?* (Winchester: Zero Books, 2012).

JOHN JOWETT, "Middleton and Debt in *Timon of Athens*," in Woodbridge, Linda (ed.), *Money and the Age of Shakespeare: Essays in New Economic Criticism* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003) 219-35.

VIVIAN THOMAS, *Shakespeare's Political and Economic Language. A Dictionary* (London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2015).

(Note: this list is preliminary and indicative of the seminar's major emphases; the seminar leader may offer additional suggestions at a later stage)