

Reading Shakespeare

Course #	20SRS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator(s):	Laura Price, Ruth Kosiorek
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 2:30-4:30 10 weeks, starting Feb. 26, 2020
Location:	Loomis Village, So. Hadley, meeting room
Maximum number of participants:	20
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2 Auditors are expected to read the plays and participate in the discussions.

Purpose: The purpose of the seminar is to better understand and enjoy selected Shakespeare plays through reading aloud and discussion.

Description: We will read four plays: "Twelfth Night," one of the sunny comedies; "Henry IV, Part One," introducing Falstaff; "The Merchant of Venice," examining complexities of justice and mercy; "King Lear," often regarded as Shakespeare's greatest play. The reading for each week will be 1, 2 or 3 acts of one of the plays. We will devote 2 weeks to each of the first three plays and 3 weeks to "Lear." The two hours of each seminar meeting will be divided between reading aloud from the plays and discussion of the passages read and of the play as a whole.

Prior knowledge of the plays is welcomed but not required. We expect that some members of the seminar may be very familiar with one or more of the plays and that others may not have read them at all. This is fine.

The seminar will consist of reading aloud and discussion. We want to learn from each other and have fun!

Role of participants: Participants will read all the plays. They will be responsible for one session, presenting passages to be read aloud and developing questions to facilitate and focus discussion. They will work in pairs if the seminar is fully subscribed; if it is not, some will work alone.

Resources: Any editions are acceptable. The plays are readily available at your local library and at book stores. They are also available on line.

About the Moderators: Laura Price has been a member of LIR for 6 years, has taken many seminars and co-moderated several. She feels she has a lot more to learn about Shakespeare. Ruthie Kosiorek has moderated and co-moderated many seminars, including a previous Shakespeare seminar.