

STRATFORD Shakespeare FESTIVAL



“EN 385X/ Hon 495X: The Stratford Festival” (3 or 4 credits)

DRAMATIC FOCUS FOR THE SEASON: “Free Will”

The NMU English Department is thrilled to announce its Fall 2018 edition of “The Stratford Festival,” a field-based course intending to give NMU students an opportunity to experience first-hand Canada’s world-renowned Stratford Festival. Over the course of a five-day, international field trip, participants will view and discuss SIX PLAYS, including: two American classics (Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Meredith Wilson’s musical, *The Music Man*); an absolute powerhouse of an additional American play (Eugene O’Neill’s *Long Day’s Journey Into Night*); the debut of an adaptation of John Milton’s epic poem (*Paradise Lost*); and two wildly disparate plays by William Shakespeare— the zany shenanigans and unified plot of an early comedy (*The Comedy of Errors*), and the somber majesty of a later Roman tragedy (*Coriolanus*). This line-up is truly exceptional! Participants in this course will read all the plays during the summer of 2018, before we meet up to view them staged during the week of August 20th, 2018. Upon our return from Stratford, students will work in tandem with the course Instructor to develop a research project during the Fall 2018 semester based upon their experiences with both text and performance in Stratford. As many of you know, the theatres in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, offer some of the very finest staging of classical drama anywhere in the world: these plays will therefore be acted and directed by some of the most talented artists working in theatre today. We seriously encourage you to consider this opportunity as a part of your NMU experience.

Preliminary Itinerary

Monday, August 20: Depart Marquette, MI; drive to Birch Run, MI. Accommodation: Country Inn and Suites.

Tuesday, August 21: Depart Birch Run, MI; arrive in Stratford, Ontario. Enjoy time in Stratford; then view *The Music Man* (2pm), followed by *The Comedy of Errors* (8pm). Accommodation: Bentley's Inn.

Wednesday, August 22: Tour— Festival Theatre (9:30am). Enjoy Stratford. Then view *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (2pm), followed by *Paradise Lost* (8pm). Accommodation: Bentley's Inn.

Thursday, August 23: Tour— Wardrobe Warehouse (10am). Enjoy Stratford. Then view *To Kill a Mockingbird* (2pm), followed by *Coriolanus* (8pm). Accommodation: Bentley's Inn.

Friday, August 24: Wake up early and depart for Marquette, MI.

Co-Leaders

Dr. David Wood (Instructor and Course Co-Leader) serves as NMU Honors Program Director and Professor of English. Dr. Wood has led countless NMU student groups to various theatres over the last decade: in addition to Stratford, Ontario, these include Stratford-upon-Avon and London, England; Chicago; Minneapolis; Milwaukee; and Houghton. He has also published widely on Shakespeare and other Renaissance dramatists.

Dr. Chet DeFonso (Course Co-Leader) serves as Associate Professor of History. Dr. DeFonso has co-led group trips to Stratford for many years, as well, and is an experienced actor in Renaissance drama and a series of musicals. Dr. DeFonso's academic research focus involves British and Canadian history of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Special Notice

Class participants will require a passport to enter Canada and to re-enter the United States. *You CANNOT participate in this course without a passport. All passports will be reviewed just prior to departure. Students enrolled in the course but who do not possess a valid passport on the day of departure will not be permitted to go.*

Cost

This is an international study abroad course: students are required to pay an administrative fee, which includes international health insurance. That final total cost per student—including a modest amount for travel expenses— will be \$300. We are able to keep that cost so incredibly low due to the remarkable generosity of a donor to the NMU Foundation. While this cost will cover all travel, lodging, theatre ticket, and many meal fees, please note that participants will be responsible for most of their meals and any extra spending money they might need. Also note, however, that since the course will be offered as a Fall semester course, students can take advantage of NMU's flat rate tuition plan (please see Course Registration below).

Class Size

The class will be restricted to 10 students: there will be a total of 10 students and two faculty members travelling in one van.

Course Registration

This class will be offered as part of the Fall 2018 semester course offerings, but our travel will take place **during the week just before the regular Fall 2018 semester begins**. Students may thus take advantage of NMU's flat rate tuition plan. In order to apply for participation in this course, we are requiring interested students to submit a letter of application (maximum 700 words), answering the following prompt:

***How will participating in this class fit into your education and life goals, respectively, both at NMU and in your plans for the future?**

The deadline for the letter of application is Friday, February 9th, by 5pm, and it should be sent as a Word attachment via email to dwood@nmu.edu.

Course Readings

Those accepted into the course will complete all primary readings, secondary readings, and assigned worksheets during the summer of 2018; all participants will be expected to arrive for our trip having read these works carefully and thought deeply about them. Doing so will allow us to discuss in careful detail all work assigned during our intense, weeklong field trip. Students can expect numerous additional reading and writing assignments upon our return, as well.

Link

www.stratfordfestival.ca