

# STRATFORD Shakespeare FESTIVAL



## “EN 495: Special Topics— Canadian Studies: Southern Ontario” (4 credits)

The NMU English Department is thrilled to offer this Fall 2012 semester a field-based course designed to give NMU students an opportunity to experience first-hand the cultural inheritance of Canada’s capital, Ottawa, and the worldwide attraction that is the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario. Over the course of eight days, participants in “EN 495” will explore Ottawa (including the Parliament, the National Gallery, the Museum of Civilization, the U.S. Embassy, and more) and Stratford, Ontario, as they view and discuss four plays, including: one centered upon Canadian Yukon poet, Robert Service; a second written by ancient Greek tragedian Sophocles, entitled *Elektra*; and two plays by William Shakespeare— a comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*; and a late romance, *Cymbeline*. Upon our return, students will work with the course instructors to develop two projects based upon their respective experiences in Ottawa and Stratford. As many of you know, the theatres in Stratford, Ontario, offer some of the very finest staging of Renaissance drama anywhere in the world. These extraordinary plays will be acted and directed by some of the most talented artists working in theater today. We seriously encourage you to consider this opportunity as a part of your NMU experience.

### Tentative Itinerary

**August 18:** drive to North Bay, Ontario— overnight, Nipissing University

**August 19:** from North Bay, drive to Ottawa - 5:00pm escorted walking tour of downtown Ottawa— overnight, Carleton University

**August 20:** Ottawa – Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec; tour of Parliament at 3:45pm— overnight, Carleton University

**August 21:** Ottawa— tour of National Gallery 10:00am— lunch— overnight, Carleton University

**August 22:** from Ottawa, drive to Waterloo via Toronto— overnight University of Waterloo

**August 23:** from Waterloo, drive to Stratford – overnight : SGH residences

2:00pm *Much Ado About Nothing*

8:00pm *Wanderlust*

**August 24:** Statford – overnight SGH residences

9:00am Backstage Tour

2:00pm *Elektra*

8:00pm *Cymbeline*

**August 25:** Stratford to Marquette

Depart first thing in the am.

### **Instructors**

Dr. Chet Defonso , Department Chair and Associate Professor of History, will co-lead the course. Dr. Defonso has experience teaching courses on Canadian history and culture, as well as experience performing Renaissance drama.

Dr. David Wood, Honors Program Director and Associate Professor of English, will co-lead the course. Dr. Wood has taken many groups of NMU students to Ottawa and Stratford over the last few years, and has published widely on Shakespeare and other Renaissance dramatists.

### **Special Notice**

You will need a passport to enter Canada and 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 a study abroad course: students are required to pay an administrative fee which includes insurance. That cost—and a modest amount for travel expenses— will be \$300. We are able to keep that cost low due to the generosity of a donor to the NMU Foundation. Please note, though, that students will be responsible for their daily meals and any extra spending money they might need. Also note that since the class will be offered as a Fall semester course, students can take advantage of the flat rate tuition plan (please see Course Registration below).

### **Class Size**

The class will be restricted to 8 students: there will be 8 students and two faculty members travelling in one University van.

### **Course Registration**

This class will be offered as part of the Fall semester course offerings but will begin during the week before the regular semester, so students may take advantage of NMU's flat rate tuition plan. Because this study abroad opportunity has been heavily subsidized, we are requiring prospective students to submit the following: a letter of application (maximum 300 words) explaining how participating in this class fits into their education at NMU. The deadline for the letter of application is Friday, February 17, 2012, and it should be sent as a Word attachment via email to [dwood@nmu.edu](mailto:dwood@nmu.edu).

### **Course Readings**

Students will be assigned readings over the summer, and will be expected to discuss these readings during the weeklong field trip.

### **Links**

<http://www.stratfordfestival.ca/>

<http://www.ottawatourism.ca/>