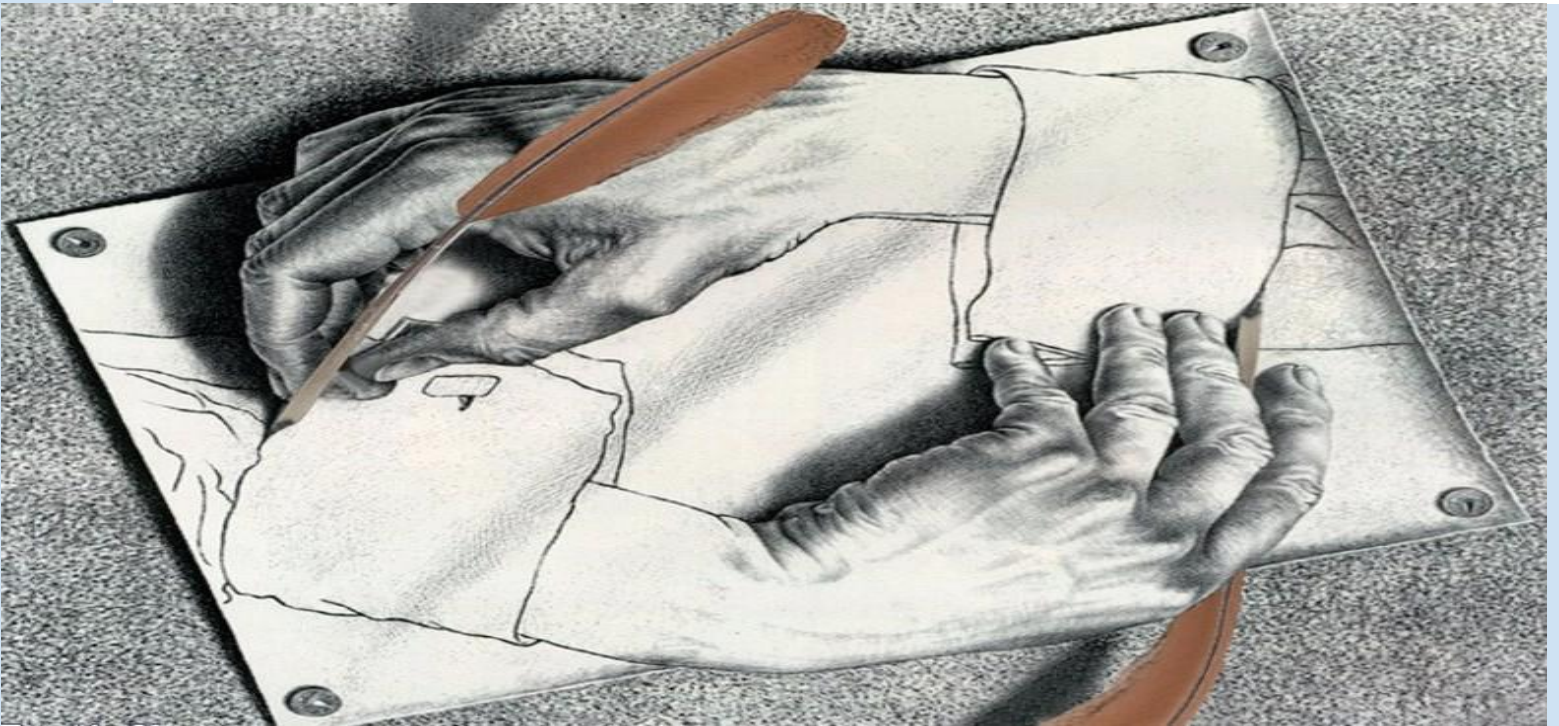


ENGL 363: Portable Shakespeare

Professor Christine Hoffmann
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Fall 2022

T/TH 1:00-2:15



“Shakespeare makes modern culture, and modern culture makes Shakespeare.” -Marjorie Garber

In her introduction to *Shakespeare and Modern Culture*, Marjorie Garber compares the relationship between Shakespeare and modernity to M.C. Escher’s well-known image, *Drawing Hands*: so “modern culture writes the plays of Shakespeare in works that range from fiction to film to plays to the daily news - while, at the same time, Shakespeare writes the modern culture in which we think we live.” In this course, we’ll approach the plays and poems of Shakespeare as both historical artifacts and portable productions that have been, over and over, restaged, revised, redrawn, reversed, rebuked and reported in(to) countless different contexts.

Three units will focus on 1) the versatility of Shakespearean villains for political commentary; 2) the imitation of Shakespearean fools for the articulation of activist ethics 3) the adaptability of Shakespearean verse for the exploration, idealization and mythification of place, including Appalachia. Thus we’ll explore Shakespeare’s enduring involvement in modern culture at the same time as we discuss his contributions to early modern conversations on identity, language, relationships, measures of intelligence and systems of power. Coursework will include writing, research and performance.

What you’ll read: *Macbeth*; *King Lear*; *Othello*; *Twelfth Night*; *Much Ado about Nothing*; *The Tempest*; the sonnets

What you’ll gain: skill in reading and analyzing Shakespeare’s poetry and drama; familiarity with recent trends in early modern scholarship; opportunities to contribute to this scholarship through class discussion, self-directed research, and multimodal projects.