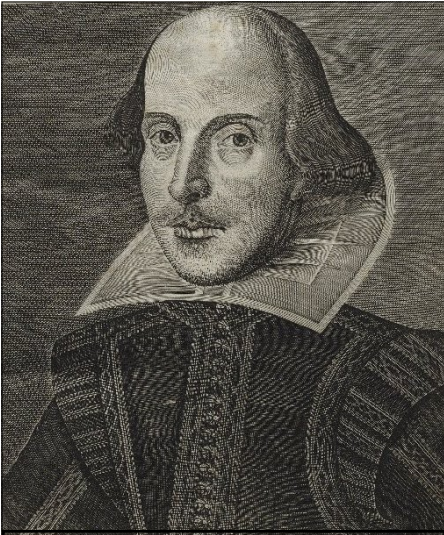




New People's University Will Explore the Plays of William Shakespeare

The latest series in the People's University program at the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling will explore the plays of William Shakespeare. Classes will meet on consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7 PM, from April 26 through June 21 in the library's auditorium.



William Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout from the title page of the First Folio, Folger Shakespeare Library.

The People's University is a free program for adults who wish to continue their education in the liberal arts, featuring courses taught by experts in each subject that enable patrons to pursue their goal of lifelong learning in classic subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature. There are no grades and patrons are welcome to attend all or only some programs.

The focus on Shakespeare is designed to complement the exhibit (and related programming), "First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare" on display at Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum from May 9 through June 12, courtesy the Folger Shakespeare Library of Washington, DC. See www.oionline.com/firstfolio.

The accomplished People's University, Shakespeare faculty will include retired Wheeling Jesuit University English professor Dr. Paul Orr, current WJU English professor Dr. Amy Criniti Phillips, retired Wheeling Central Catholic High School English teacher Lou Volpe, and Assistant Director for Scholarly Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Dr. Owen Williams.

Classes begin on Tuesday, April 26 at 7 PM with "Hamlet: Anxiety, Doubt, & Faith in a Very Modern Man." Chronic anxiety and wholesale depression form a considerable part of many people's lives in the 21st Century, an age characterized by both an individual loss of confidence and a collective "loss of faith." One particular facet of this Shakespeare tragedy revolves around the anxiety, depression—and perhaps, "madness"—experienced by Hamlet and the eventual resolution of his "disease."

Instructor Lou Volpe graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University in 1970 with a BA in English and from John Carroll University in 1978 with an MA in English Literature. Besides teaching for four years at St. John Central High School in Bellaire, Ohio, Lou spent thirty-four years teaching Senior English to his beloved students at Wheeling Central Catholic High School.

Please note that Oglebay Institute's Towngate Cinema will offer a free screening of Kenneth Branagh's film *Hamlet* on April 23 at 3 PM. Please see the oionline.com/firstfolio calendar for details.

The remainder of the schedule for People’s University, Shakespeare:

Class 2, May 3: Antony and Cleopatra, “The World Well Lost”

History's most famous lovers, Rome's Antony and Egypt's Queen Cleopatra, refuse to let political realities separate them in life. When Rome's Octavius Caesar defeats Antony's Egyptian fleet, and Antony believes that Cleopatra has died, he kills himself to join her. Anticipating a fate as the mocked and degraded centerpiece of a Roman holiday, and refusing to let Death separate her from Antony, Cleopatra too commits suicide. “Put on my crown. I have immortal longings in me.”

Instructor Paul Orr (Ph.D. University of Notre Dame) taught for forty years in the English Department of Wheeling Jesuit University. Long weeks rehearsing for an undergraduate production of Hamlet addicted him to live theatre and the plays of Shakespeare. Annual visits to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, in Stratford, Ontario, witnessing performances by many of the world's finest actors (Alex Guinness, Maggie Smith, Christopher Plummer, Paul Robson), plus thirty years sharing the Towngate stage with wonderfully talented actors directed by Hal O'Leary, have made that addiction incurable.

Class 3, May 10: An Introduction to “The First Folio”

The Folger Shakespeare Library, located on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, is home to the world's largest Shakespeare collection. The First Folio is a large format collection of Shakespeare's plays compiled in 1623 after his death. It preserves 18 plays that had never been printed before. Very few copies survive of this volume, which is the first “collected works” to contain only plays. In 2016, “First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare” will bring the First Folio to all 50 states. The exhibition exclusively features First Folios from the Folger. Oglebay Institute is hosting this exhibit locally from May 9-June 12.

Instructor Owen Williams is Assistant Director for Scholarly Programs at the Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. He holds his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also worked as the Assistant to the Curator of Special Collections while writing his dissertation on early modern English literature. At the Folger, he welcomes some 200 scholars each year to a slate of advanced programs on Shakespeare and early modern England and Europe. His edited collection, *Foliomania! Stories Behind Shakespeare’s Most Famous Book*, has recently been reprinted for Shakespeare’s 2016 anniversary year.

Class 4, May 17: Henry V— “Are We in Order?” Leadership, Companionship, & Fidelity

Like the conductor of a great jazz orchestra—Duke Ellington, for example—King Henry V gathers men from all walks and stations of life and harmonizes their individual talents for the benefit of the common good of the country. His leadership qualities of integrity, honesty, discernment, and respect, elicit trust, confidence, cooperation, and loyalty in his companions, presenting us with a timeless lesson in leadership. Instructor: Lou Volpe

[Note: Towngate will offer a free screening of Branagh's *Henry V* on May 22 at 3 PM as part of the Wheeling Film Society. A Conversation will follow at Lunch With Books at the library on May 24 at noon. Please see the online.com/firstfolio and ohiocountylibrary.org calendars for details.]

Class 5, May 24: The Tempest, “Lovers, Evildoers and a Noble Magician”

Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, by his magic powers, contrives that his usurpers be cast ashore on the bleak island where he and his daughter Miranda are living. The evildoers wander the island separated from each other, enduring magically contrived chastening experiences. The innocent and handsome Ferdinand meets Miranda, and they fall in love. The others fare less happily. “O brave new world” cries out Miranda on first seeing them, “that has such creatures in it.” Dryly, her Father responds “New to you.” By now, all have learned and mellowed, most importantly, Prospero himself. Reconciled to his usurping brother, he forgives them all, abjures his magic powers, and all return to civilization except the half human monster Caliban.

Instructor: Dr. Paul Orr

Class 6, May 31: Twelfth Night: Performance, Gender-Bending, and Identity Crises

Within the Christian tradition, Twelfth Night was a religious celebration at the end of the Christmas season that focused on feasting, excessive drinking, merrymaking, and inverting the “normal” social order. While Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* exploits the festive atmosphere through a comedy full of mischief, excess, gender-bending, and role reversals, this play raises some serious questions about the true nature of gender, desire, and identity.

Instructor Dr. Amy Criniti Phillips is an Assistant Professor of English at Wheeling Jesuit University. A native of Wheeling, she received her B.A. in English from Wheeling Jesuit University. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Duquesne University, completing a dissertation in Victorian literature and questions of female authorship. Her teaching and research interests include British literature, studies in fiction, and women's and gender studies. She has published articles in *The CEA Forum*, *Studies in Graduate and Professional Student Development*, and *Women's Writing*. She lives in Wheeling with her husband, Mark, and her young son, Benjamin, and she enjoys reading, gardening, and rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Class 7, June 7: King Lear, “Creation Shouts and the Poor Cry Out!”

Two significant but sometimes overlooked participants in the play—Creation and the Poor—continue to grow in importance both literally and symbolically as this tragedy progresses. Both of these “players” are moral and psychological barometers of the action, the characters, the themes of King Lear. Instructor: Lou Volpe

Class 8, June 14: Much Ado About Nothing, “Should ‘Seeing’ always be ‘Believing’?”

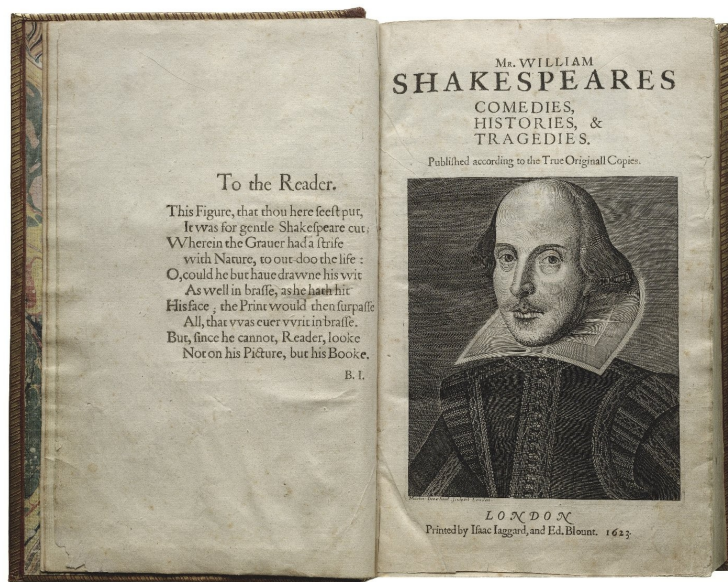
The wittily quarreling lovers, Beatrice and Benedick, and the swooningly romantic lovers Hero and Claudio, believe what they are tricked into hearing and seeing. The results? Suspenseful scenes of denunciation, comic declarations of love, deceitful and absurd behavior, and finally, the fortuitous uncovering of reality. The climax is a joyful dance towards a double wedding. *Much Ado* is possibly Shakespeare's most absurdly sunny Comedy. Instructor: Dr. Paul Orr

[Note: Towngate will offer a free screening of Branagh's *Much Ado* on June 12 at 3 PM as part of the Wheeling Film Society. A Conversation will follow at Lunch With Books at the library on June 14 at noon. Please see the oionline.com/firstfolio and ohiocountylibrary.org calendars for details.]

Class 9, June 21: "I am determined to prove a villain": Uncovering the "Real" Richard III

In 2012, more than five hundred years after his death, Richard III's skeletal remains were located in a Church parking lot in Leicester, England. Although anthropologists noted that the historical Richard III was not the deformed hunchback of Shakespeare's play, the historical Richard III's reputation is still dominated by the Vice character of Shakespeare's creation, who appears to embody true evil. Through an exploration of *Richard III*, however, one can "dig" below the surface to discover that there may be more to this notorious wicked king than a hunchback with a penchant for murder. Instructor: Dr. Amy Criniti Phillips

To register for The People's University Shakespeare, please call the library at 304-232-0244, send an email to lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com, or visit the Reference Desk. Remember, classes are free and open to the public. There are no grades, and registration is not a commitment. You are welcome to attend all or only some classes. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit www.ohiocountylibrary.org.



First Folio, Folger Shakespeare Library.