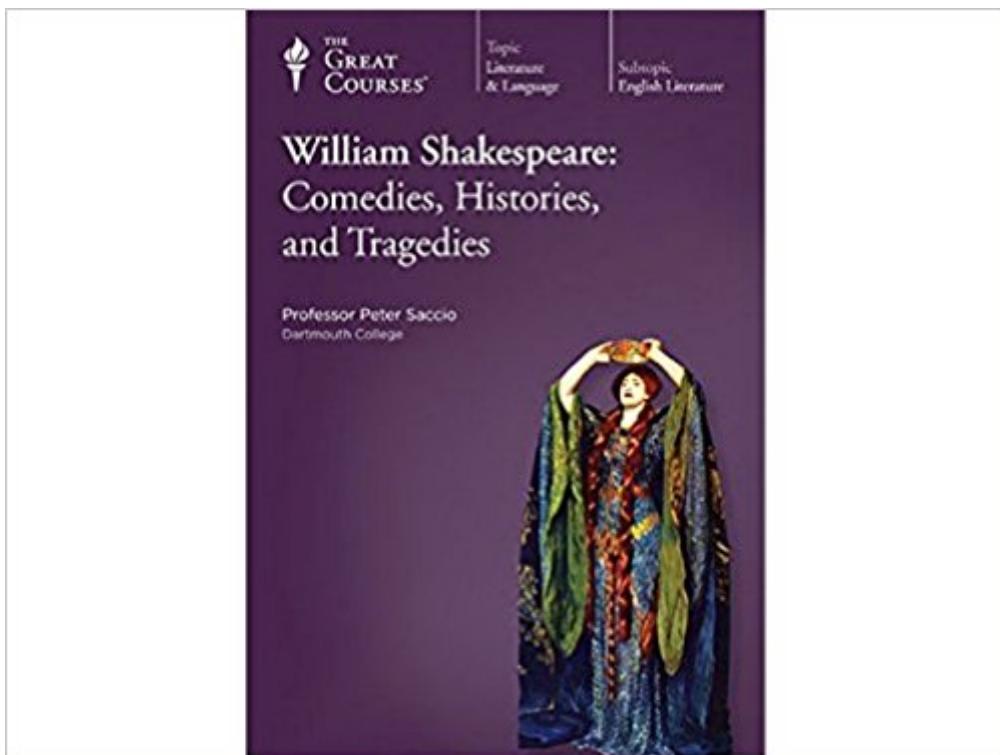


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# William Shakespeare: Comedies, Histories, And Tragedies



## Synopsis

Shakespeare's plays - whether a comedy like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a history like *Henry IV*, or a tragedy like *Hamlet* - are treasure troves of insight into our very humanity. These 36 lectures introduce you to Shakespeare's major plays from each of these three genres and explain the achievement that makes him the leading playwright in Western civilization. As you'll see, the key to Shakespeare's massive achievement is his "abundance," according to Professor Saccio; not only in the number and length of his plays but in the variety of experiences they depict, the multitude of actions and characters they contain, the combination of public and private life they deal with, and the richness of feelings they express. All the major plays are here for you to dive into, explore, and enjoy: *The Taming of the Shrew* (with its realistic look at bourgeois marriage customs), *Measure for Measure* (which shows Shakespeare breaking out of comic conventions), *Richard III* (the source of one of the Bard's most entertaining and frightening historical villains), *Henry V* (which raises questions about the morality of warfare), *Macbeth* (with its piercing look into the consciousness of a man hungry for power), and more. As the richness of each of these and other plays is revealed, you'll also touch upon the far-ranging philosophical and theological implications behind them. By the last lecture, you'll have a true understanding of why these comedies, histories, and tragedies endure even to this very day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Really enjoying this series and learning a lot about the plays and the Shakespeare's world. I listen while commuting in my car. Worth every penny. Peter Scaccio knows and loves his subject... his lectures are so articulate and cogent.

I thoroughly recommend these CDs by Professor Saccio. I've read all of Shakespeare's plays and am very impressed by these audio CDs as a supplement to the plays. Prof. Saccio discusses the main points, themes, passages as well as giving historical context. He is very entertaining and clearly very knowledgeable. Most importantly, he is able to present his knowledge in a way that is comprehensible as well as engaging. I like these CDs so much, I've already ordered the other Shakespeare course that Prof. Saccio has made.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Ã“If you prick us do we not bleed? If you tickle us do we not laugh? If you poison us do we not die? And if you wrong us shall we not revenge?ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Shylock in Merchant of Venice1 Shakespeare Then and Now2 The Nature of Shakespeare's Plays3 Twelfth NightÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Shakespearean Comedy4 Twelfth NightÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Malvolio in Love5 The Taming of the ShrewÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Getting Married in the 1590s6 The Taming of the ShrewÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Farce and Romance7 The Merchant of VeniceÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Courting the Heiress8 The Merchant of VeniceÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Shylock9 Measure for MeasureÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Sex in Society10 Measure for MeasureÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Justice and Comedy11 Richard IIIÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •Shakespearean History12 Richard IIIÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  •The

Villain's Career13 Richard IIÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Theory of Kingship14 Richard IIÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Fall of the King15 Henry IVÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •All the King's Men16 Henry IVÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Life of Falstaff17 Henry VÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Death of Falstaff18 Henry VÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The King Victorious19 Romeo and JulietÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Shakespearean Tragedy20 Romeo and JulietÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Public Violence and Private Bliss21 Troilus and CressidaÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Ancient Epic in a New Mode22 Troilus and CressidaÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Heroic Aspirations23 Julius CaesarÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Matter of Rome24 Julius CaesarÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Heroes of History25 HamletÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Abundance of the Play26 HamletÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Causes of Tragedy27 HamletÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Protestant Hero28 OthelloÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •The Design of the Tragedy29 OthelloÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“O Villainy!ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•30 OthelloÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“The Noble MoorÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•31 King LearÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“This Is the WorstÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•32 King LearÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Wisdom Through Suffering33 King LearÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“Then We Go OnÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•34 MacbethÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“Fair Is FoulÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•35 MacbethÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •Musing on Murder36 MacbethÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â •ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“Enter Two MurderersÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•I love Shakespeare. At the age of 9 I had read all of his plays by acting them out with my sisters because we had a complete set of his plays. That is what you did when you didnÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â„ct have hundreds of television channels or computers and it was raining outside. I am not a Shakespearean expert but more of an aficionado. When this Great Course came up on my Audible membership, I just had to get it. The Course is a series of 36 half hour lectures by Prof. Peter Saccio Ph.D. from Dartmouth College. It is not merely a reading and dissecting each play, but more of an overview of the themes of ShakespeareÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â„cs plays and what we should learn from them. I especially loved when the Professor pooh-poohed those ideas that Shakespeare didnÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â„ct write his own works as class bias and prejudice. I also enjoyed the modern takes on plays like ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“Taming of the ShrewÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å• and ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“Merchant of VeniceÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å•. I know that this course has set more goals for me in retirement. I would like to see all of ShakespeareÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â„cs plays either live or on dvd/video. I have already seen the version of ÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å“Richard IIÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã Å• on Prime this month. This is what a great teacher will do for you. Challenge you to further your research and enjoyment by pursuing experiences that will continue your brainÃfÃcÃ â ¬Ã â„cs capacities. Thank you Professor Peter Saccio for inspiring me.

Professor Saccio's courses on Shakespeare remain my favorite Great Courses after more than a decade. They are delightful by themselves and I now watch the plays with more enjoyment. I no longer attempt to analyze every character and every soliloquy as if for an English class essay and I enjoy noticing some of the dramatic techniques and director's choices that I did not see before hearing this marvelous course.

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