

ENGL 4603: Searching for Hamlet  
a Presidential Dream Course  
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Is *Hamlet* a political thriller or a psychological drama? If Hamlet has a psyche, does he also have a body? Can early modern humoral theory help us account for that body, or is the actor's body more vital for locating the "real" Hamlet? Through these and other questions, we will challenge ourselves to think and rethink the most renowned work of fiction written in the English language, exploring the diverse, often contradictory ways that *Hamlet* has been read, performed, and interpreted over its 400-year long history. "Searching for Hamlet" examines *Hamlet's* enduring hold on our collective imagination, from its early modern origins through adaptations on the 18<sup>th</sup> century stage to modern and postmodern engagements in the West and globally. A series of world-renowned experts will join us to lead discussions and offer public lectures, including Terri Bourus (Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis), Michael Bristol (McGill University), and Emma Smith (Oxford University).