DIVIDING THE KINGDOMS:
INTERDISCIPLINARY METHODS FOR
TEACHING KING LEAR TO
UNDERGRADUATES
HTTP://GUIDES.LIB.WAYNE.EDU/FOLGERKINGLEAR

Jaime Goodrich (English)
Graham Hukill (University Libraries)
Cynthia Krolikowski (University Libraries)
THE BACKGROUND

FIRST FOLIO!
THE BOOK THAT GAVE US SHAKESPEARE COMES TO DETROIT!
FEBRUARY 11 – APRIL 1, 2016 EVENTS
THE CHALLENGE

• “Teaching Shakespeare to Undergraduates” (2016-17 microgrant)
  • Sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library and the NEH
  • Aimed at improving college-level instruction of Shakespeare
  • Limited to 24 of the 52 sites that participated in “First Folio!”

• Terms of the microgrant:
  • “sites … [will] receive $6,000 for a project to strengthen college-level instruction around Shakespeare in the First Folio! host site community or region”
  • Materials produced were eligible for inclusion on the Folger’s website
THE TEAM

• Judith Arnold (WSU Libraries)
• Tom Aulino (Theatre)
• Simone Chess (English)
• Jaime Goodrich (English)
• Ken Jackson (English)
• Chera Kee (Film)
• Matt Ouellett (OTL)
Wayne State University proposes an initiative to create a digital suite of resources on *King Lear*, with the following objectives:

- to enrich college teaching of Shakespeare at WSU and elsewhere by introducing diverse pedagogical approaches to *Lear*;
- to extend the institutional collaboration of the First Folio tour by featuring resources from WSU and the Detroit Public Library;
- to provide material for the Folger website that will contribute to national conversations about best practices in college-level instruction of Shakespeare.
OVERVIEW: MODULES

• Five modules
  • Adaptation: Chera Kee (Film)
  • Cultural Studies: Simone Chess (English)
  • Performance: Tom Aulino (Theatre)
  • Philosophy: Ken Jackson (English)
  • Text: Jaime Goodrich (English)

• Contents:
  • 3-minute introductory video
  • 3-4 lesson plans for in-class activities
  • 2 out-of-class assignments
  • 1 service-learning activity
OVERVIEW: SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

• Digitized Texts
  • Early versions of Lear:
    • 1608 Quarto
    • 1685 Fourth Folio
  • Shakespeare’s sources
    • Anonymous Leir (1605)
    • Holinshed (1587)
    • Sidney (1590)
    • Spenser (1590)
  • Shakespearean adaptation
    • Nahum Tate’s Lear (1681)

• Module on Digital Humanities
• Videos of Larry Yando and WSU BFA students
• Samples of student work
• Sample syllabi
THE LOGISTICS

• Fall 2016
  • Faculty planned the modules
  • Faculty convened an undergraduate focus group
  • Libraries digitized Fourth Folio, Holinshed, and Tate

• Winter 2017
  • Faculty refined and piloted the modules
  • Sarah Noble (BA student) developed service-learning activities
  • Communications students filmed videos
  • Libraries digitized Quarto

• Summer 2017 and ongoing
  • Communications students are finalizing performance videos
  • Libraries are digitizing Leír, Sidney, and Spenser
FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND CONCLUSION

• Up Next:
  Publicizing “Dividing the Kingdoms” both locally and nationally

• In Conclusion:
  “King Lear is one of Shakespeare’s most profound works, but also one of the most difficult to teach at the undergraduate level. By taking a multimodal approach to Lear, Dividing the Kingdoms allows faculty and students to explore the many layers of a masterwork that remains perennially relevant to the human condition.”