Shakespeare and Women is an exploration of assumptions about gender revealed by an examination of the primary female characters in seven of Shakespeare’s plays: *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *All’s Well that Ends Well*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, and *Troilus and Cressida*. The course is organized around the categories into which the societies depicted in Shakespeare’s plays constantly attempt to place the female characters, including such roles as wife, mother, daughter, widow, shrew, witch, nun, whore, and temptress. Although Shakespeare clearly recognizes and employs these restrictive definitions, he invariably complicates these roles by showing how they fail to capture the full range of female experience that these characters represent.