The goal of the course is to explore the various settings and versions of the tragic love story of Romeo and Juliet. The course is divided into 8 Parts.

Part 1. We will compare several very different early stories of the warring Capulet and Montague families. For example, the Gounod opera sets one version and the Bellini opera sets another. A recommended purchase would be the book *Romeo & Juliet* published by Dante University of America Press (Boston), edited by Adolph Caso, which includes various versions of the story. I will ask you to read several of these versions for class discussion.

Part 2. The Franco Zefferelli inspiring movie of Shakespeare’s play

Part 3. Three versions of Prokofiev’s ballet setting will be compared. The Royal Ballet production with Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn, the Royal Ballet Covent Garden with Alessandra Ferri and Wayne Eagling, and the “musical montage” choreography by Mauro Bigonzetti.

Part 4. Two versions of Gounod’s opera *Roméo et Juliette* will be compared using the Covent Garden production and the “made for TV” (shortened) version.

Part 5. Leonard Bernstein’s *West Side Story*. Bernstein’s clever use of dance and his choice of musical styles to separate the two gangs as well as setting the story in New York City in the Twentieth Century.

Part 6. Belini’s opera *Capuleti e I Montecchi* is based upon a different early version of the story than the version used by Gounod and Shakespeare. Also, the role of Romeo is a pants role not a male role!


Part 8: Film *Private Romeo* (winner of 3 festival awards), gay version, 2012