Margaret Atwood is an astonishingly versatile writer -- a master of poetry and a truly inventive novelist. In her 2016 novel, *Hag-Seed*, a modern retelling of *The Tempest*, Atwood transforms the ever-theatrical Prospero character into a genuine theater director who, like Prospero himself, has been usurped and exiled. What better way to right the wrongs ostensibly done to him in the original play than to stage *The Tempest* in a prison educational program? Atwood’s adaptation of Shakespeare's characters contribute to an exhilarating and surprising novel. Equally important, they shine a penetrating light on the original play. We'll discuss about 60 pages a day, and discover *The Tempest* anew through the eyes of one of today’s most gifted authors.

**About the Instructor**

William Flesch is a professor of English at Brandeis, where he teaches courses on Shakespeare, on the history of poetry, and on film. He is the author of *Comeuppance: Costly Signaling, Altruistic Punishment and Other Biological Components of Fiction*, which made book critic James Woods' list of 10 best books for 2008. He is the recipient of three teaching awards and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship.

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