

Stephen Greenblatt

Born November 7, 1943, in [Boston, Massachusetts](#), the son of a lawyer and a housewife, was raised in [Newton](#), Massachusetts, graduated from Newton H.S.

B.A. Yale (1964) English (age 20), M.Phil Cambridge (1966) (Fulbright scholar, age 22), PhD Yale (1969) English (age 25/26)

Asst. Prof. UC Berkeley 1969, full professor 1979 (35/36);

1997 joined Harvard faculty where he is the John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities in the Dept. of English. Now 80 years old, still active on faculty.

Interests: Shakespeare; Early Modern Literature and Culture; Literature of Travel and Exploration; Religion and Literature; Literature and Anthropology; Literary and Cultural Theory.

He is considered to be among the preeminent scholars of [Renaissance](#) literature and is particularly noted for his analyses of [William Shakespeare](#)'s works.

Credited with establishing [New Historicism](#), an approach to [literary criticism](#) that interprets literature in terms of the [milieu](#) from which it emerged. Art emerges from the complex interaction between artists and their society and any criticism of a work is colored by the *critic's* beliefs, social status, and other factors. By the end of the 20th century, New Historicism had become the dominant mode of Anglo-American literary analysis

Selected Works:

Learning to Curse: Essays in Early Modern Culture (1990)

Marvelous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World (1991).

Hamlet in Purgatory (2001)

Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare (2004)

The Swerve (2011) *National Book Award* (2011); *Pulitzer Prize* (2012)

The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve: The Story that Created Us (2017)

Tyrant: Shakespeare on Politics (2018) -- considered by many literary critics as criticism of the Trump administration

See him on YouTube!