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ENG 5002-001: Studies in Renaissance Lit: Early Modern Prose

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English 5002 Studies in Renaissance Lit: Early Modern Prose
Spring 1999

Dr. Carol D. Stevens
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Office Hours: 10:00-10:45 and 3:30-4:30 T and Th, 2:00-3:00 W,
5:00-5:45 Th, by appointment, and walk-ins when my door is
open and I'm not pushing a major deadline.

Course description:

What did Thomas More think of slavery? How radical were Milton's ideas on freedom of the press? What makes an educated person? Do women have souls? What makes followers of seventeenth century English preachers like modern Italian opera fans? What trends in 16th-century English prose helped produce the 20th Century novel? Why was there a lively debate about witchcraft in the mid-seventeenth century? By looking at the development of English prose in connection with the evolution of humanist thought, we'll examine these and other burning (or in the case of English witchcraft trials, hanging) questions in the history of ideas. The course will be conducted as a seminar, with much independent reading, some lecture, a great deal of discussion, student projects, a research paper, and other opportunities for a discourse worthy of More, Donne, Milton, Elizabeth Tudor and her father Henry, delightful Thomas Browne and others.

Course texts:

- Abrams and others, eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 6th ed. Vol. 1.
- Behn. *Oroonoko or, The Royal Slave*.
- Browne. *The Major Works*.
- Castiglione. *The Book of the Courtier*.
- Lamson and Smith, eds. *The Golden Hind*.
- Martin, ed. *Women Writers in Renaissance England*.
- Milton. *Complete Poems and Major Prose*.
- More. *Utopia*, 2nd ed. Norton Critical Editions

Grading: Unless otherwise specified in class, your grade will be based upon

- journal responses (30 points)
- class participation (20 points)
- mid-term and final exams (50 points)
- projects and presentations (20 points)
- term paper (30 points)

Total: 150 points--150-136=A, 135-121=B, 120-116=C, 115-100=D, below 100=F

Responsibilities and policies:

You must turn in all assigned work, whether on handout or assigned in class, to pass the course.

Your written work needs to be available as assigned. This includes any preliminary writing assignments for projects and papers. Failure to get preliminary work in on schedule will result in a 5-point deduction from the project grade.

Class discussion and discussion-oriented writing such as journals and impromptu class writing cannot be made up, as their sole purpose is to facilitate discussion.

The group is small, a seminar, and meets only once a week. Every member of the class bears responsibility for teaching all of the others. Therefore, all members should be present for each class.

Ground rules for discussion:

We offer our experience as our truth, and agree to respect the experiences of other members of the class.

We acknowledge that our experience is limited, and that limited experience may cause us to draw shaky conclusions.

We agree actively to pursue information about the subjects we study, to avoid stereotypes, and to encourage thought.

We agree to share what we think and believe without demeaning or devaluing anyone else's beliefs or experiences.

We agree to create an atmosphere in which everyone feels safe to discuss the material openly.

Academic honesty, research, written work etc:

I regard any violation of academic honesty including misappropriation of sources, unauthorized help, cheating on exams, and so forth, with the utmost seriousness, and will apply penalties severely. Students who transgress will certainly receive an F for the assignment. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, and faulty documentation on papers and exams will most likely result in an F for the assignment and probably an F for the course, and will be reported to Judicial Board.

Students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Course assignments: As you are given assignments and due dates, please keep up with them, even if we are discussing other material in class.

Please note: Every effort has been made to spell out policies clearly. Some changes may occur in the normal course of any semester. For any alteration of assignment or policy, an announcement in class will be considered sufficient notice, so take care! Remaining in the course after these policies have been discussed and clarified signals that you have accepted them and agree to abide by them.