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ENG 3803-051: British Literature

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English 3803 Section 051
British Literature 1500-1660
Summer 2008
Prof. Carol Stevens

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(needed every day)
Erickson, The First Elizabeth (needed as specified.)
Other materials as presented, including today’s assignment

Course Goals: By the end of this four weeks I hope you will be able to
1. Read with understanding and enjoyment the works of writers in sixteenth and early seventeenth century England.
2. Understand the background, development, and nature of literary forms and genres in this period.
3. Be aware of historical, social, and cultural forces which shaped the Tudor and Stuart monarchies and the Interregnum and possibly the Restoration, as they are reflected in the literature.
4. Be able to identify and explain some of the major intellectual movements of the period as they are discussed in the literature.
5. Be able to explicate texts from the period both orally and in writing with skill and understanding.
6. Read and understand developing theories about the nature of literature.
7. Read and apply more recent works of literary theory and criticism to your studies in this period.

Course description: England during the period from 1500 to 1660 is an age of enormous turmoil in politics, religion, science, law, even family life. Fortunately for us, the age generated some great writing by some of the most widely-recognized names in British Literature: More, Sidney, Spenser, Wroth, Elizabeth I, Shakespeare, Milton etc. Through the work of these artists and others, we will examine central issues of humanism, Platonism, reformation, development, and innovation in form and style, arguments in literary criticism, major debates in literature and philosophy, and politics, including the politics of writing and publishing.
Grades: Will use numbers instead of letters, will be based on 100 points, and will not be curved.

- Attendance, participation, group work etc. 20
- Analytical/critical/research paper, 8-10 pages, 30
- Three one-hour exams 10 points each, 30 points
- Final Exam (comprehensive) 20
- A=91-100, B=80-90, C=70-79, D=65-70, below 65=F

Responsibilities and Policies:

1. Come to class every meeting, and keep the lines of communication open. Late work gets lowered grades, and may not be accepted at all.
2. No notebook computers, cell phones, mp3 players, etc. on or out in the classroom, at all, ever, except as prescribed by the Office of Disability Services. They are a distraction except as noted, and according to recent research impede learning for everyone, not just the person using them.
3. Absences will result in a deduction from your point total of 4 points for every class missed. But there will be points added for students who contribute to the class by thoughtful discussion and other means.
4. Honor policy: The ethics of academic honesty dictate that students do their own work—always. Taking someone else’s words or thoughts and using them in your own writing without giving credit is plagiarism, as is cheating on exams (including text messaging or using the Internet during an exam), improper or patchwork documentation etc. Offenders will fail the course and be reported to Judicial Affairs.
5. Paper Format: papers and any other out-of-class writings should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and type no larger than 12-point (the size of the font in this handout.) They should be fastened with a single staple or paper clip, and should not be enclosed in folders. Your name, the course and section number, and the date should appear at the top left of the first page, with the title of your paper centered below it. Citations/documentation must be in MLA style.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. Accommodations will be made only with letters from the ODS and will follow the prescriptions exactly.

Please note: A policy statement and syllabus are tentative documents. Changes in any part, including grading, will be announced in class, and such announcement will be considered sufficient notice of such change.

Important Dates:
- Hourly exams May 15, May 22, May 29; Final Exam June 5
- Paper Final Draft NO LATER THAN June 2 (early papers are welcome)
Dates indicate when assignments must be completed to be discussed in class. All selections are from The Norton Anthology of English Literature Vol. 1 unless otherwise indicated.

5/12 Introduction to course, policies, procedures, ideas, each other. First in-class writing, based on engraving from *The Extravagant Shepheard* and Shakespeare Sonnet

5/13 Norton, Introduction to 16th Century beginning p. 469; bio. and selection from More’s *Utopia*, beginning p. 503. Also, Poetry of Wyatt beginning 525—all.


5/15 Hoby, translation of Castiglione’s *The Courtier*, beginning 577, Ascham, *Toxophilus* and *The Schoolmaster*, beginning 563. First hourly exam in second half of class

5/19 In Norton, Sir Philip Sidney, selections from *Astrophil and Stella* beginning p. 909 (1, 7, 31, 39, 74), as well as “Thou blind man’s mark, and “Leave me, O Love” and Shakespeare Sonnets 1, 18, 20, 29, 55, 73, 129, 138.


5/21 In Norton, Marlowe, *The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus*.


5/23 The section in Norton titled “The Wider World,” pp. 889-906 (Includes selections on Frobisher, Drake, Hariot, and “From the first voyage made to Virginia”; second hourly exam in second half of class

5/26 Memorial Day, no classes
5/27 Carolly Erickson, *The First Elizabeth* must be read by today. Discuss, and relate to Elizabethan literature.


6/3 Poetry of Ben Jonson, pp. 1292-1399, plus “To Penshurst” and other selections as time permits. Poetry of Lady Mary Wroth, from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*, beginning 1428. Milton Poetry TBA.

6/4 Bacon (all, beginning 1528, Burton from *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Browne (all), Hobbes (from *Leviathan*, all). Milton Prose TBA. and Review.

6/5 Final exam