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ENG 3803-001: Renaissance and Seventeenth-Century British Literature

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Texts
Shakespeare, *Much Ado, Merchant of Venice*.
Wroth, *The Countess of Montgomery’s Urania*.
Sidney, *The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia*.
Castiglione, *Book of the Courtier*.
Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

E-Reserves
--Anger, “Jane Anger, her Protection for women…”
--Gosynhill, “Mulierum Paean”
--Gosynhill, “Schoolhouse of Women”

Note: To see period editions of English texts, see Early Books Online (EEBO) via Both Library site.

Secondary Sources of Interest

Course Description
English literature of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries is a rich amalgam of English concerns and Continental styles. In this course we will explore the poetry, prose, and drama of a wide variety of writers from this period, including Queen Elizabeth, Philip Sidney, Mary Sidney Herbert, Edmund Spenser, Mary Wroth, Ben Jonson, William Shakespeare, and others. We will examine how these English writers adopted and adapted the literary trends of Continental Europe to ameliorate their own national literature. By the end of the semester, you should have a broad understanding of the shaping forces of the period upon English literature, as well as a sense of connections between the early modern world and our own.

Department Themes Addressed
Media, Technology, and Popular Culture
Identity and Culture
Genre, Form, and Poetics

Learning Objectives
--Students will ask incisive questions and engage in diverse critical perspectives as we discuss the literature.
--Students will perform research tasks based on primary and secondary source readings, and they will make use of traditional library resources as well as library databases and online resources of scholarly repute.
--Students will synthesize, critique, and interpret their findings in their writing assignments.
--Students will craft cogent, defensible, and well-researched theses for their projects.
--Students will discuss their findings in informal, small group settings and in formal presentations for the whole class.

**Policies and General Information**
--The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—“The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s original work” *(Random House Dictionary of the English Language)*—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. See [http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php](http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php) for further information.

--Papers and exams: Hand papers in on time. Late papers will be reduced a letter grade for each class day that they are late without a university approved excuse (properly verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity). If you miss an exam, and you have a university-approved excuse, you may make up that exam. You will have no more than one week to do so, and the make-up exam may be different from the one given during class.

--If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) or stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, as soon as possible to make an appointment.

--If you require general help with your studies, please make an appointment with The Student Success Center. Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (http://www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

--Please make use of EIU’s Writing Center, located at 3110 Coleman Hall, this semester. The consultants there can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support for, and documenting your papers. One caveat: the Writing Center is not a proofreading or editing service. It is a place where you can learn how to become a more thoughtful, independent, and rhetorically effective writer. To schedule an appointment, drop by (3110 Coleman Hall) or call 581-5929.

--Be prepared for class. You'll get more out of class discussions if you are participating in them, and I'll notice if you do not seem prepared to participate.

**Requirements and Grades**
--Three exams ..................... 45% (15% each of final grade)
--One 7-10 page research paper ....... 20%
--One research report with annotated bibliography ............... 10%
Assignments

The three exams will cover the three units of study.

The research paper topic will be chosen from the assigned readings and issues related to them. The paper will be 7-10 pages long. You will use at least 3-5 secondary sources to support your arguments, and they should consist of scholarly books and journal articles. One web site of good scholarly repute may be used. You will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page, for documentation. For MLA Style, see the Writing Center’s web site, specifically, under Resources for Writers, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

After midterm, you will have a research report with an annotated bibliography due to show the progress that you have made regarding your research project. Don’t worry if we haven’t yet covered the topic that interests you in class by the time you start your research—this portion of your study is meant to be an independent exploration of a topic that may be completely new to you. The goal is that your independent study will augment what is covered in class and will broaden the scope of the course as a whole for you. You, in turn, will share with the class what you have learned from your research near the end of the semester. Thus, the preliminary research report and annotated bibliography will cover the research that you do for your research paper and presentation. It will essentially be your paper proposal. The report will address the topic, why you chose the topic, and the avenues of research that you chose to explore (2-3 pages). The annotated bibliography will consist of bibliographic citations of at least five sources with your notes on each work that describe the document, summarize why it may be useful to your project, and include possible quotations that you might use in the paper (2-3 pages).

The final presentation will be a 10-minute oral report over your research project, due near the end of the semester. After conducting your research and writing your paper, you will present to the class what you have learned. The goal is to provide, via your and your fellow students’ reports, both a “big picture” look at the subjects we have covered over the course of the semester, as well as introduce specialized information that you have focused on during your own independent study.

The 3 response projects will be researched essays or responses to selected creative prompts of 3-5 pages each, concerned with specific reading assignments. Just as for the research paper, you will use scholarly books and articles for your sources. One web site of good scholarly repute may be used if necessary. You will use MLA Parenthetical Style documentation for the researched information.

Important Reminder
This course is a writing intensive course. If you would like to submit the paper from this course for the EWP, please do so during the last two weeks of the semester.

Tentative Schedule
Note: Readings may be shifted around during the semester to accommodate the class discussion.
Unit One: European Influence, Poetry in Motion, and Queen Elizabeth

**Note on Dates:** 1533—Henry VIII is excommunicated by Clement VII; 1534—Henry VIII declares himself head of English church; 1547—death of Henry VIII; Edward ascends the throne; 1553—death of Edward VI; Mary ascends the throne; 1558—death of Mary; Elizabeth ascends the throne; 1567—Mary Queen of Scots is imprisoned in England (executed, 1587); 1570—Elizabeth I is excommunicated by Pope Pius V; Edmund Spenser’s *FQ*, 1590, 1596.

Self-fashioning

T. Jan. 10—Discuss syllabus. Look at images of Renaissance art.

Homework: Read Poetry Handouts, as well as Wyatt, 525; Earl of Surrey, 569; Sidney, 916; Shakespeare, 1028; Wroth, 1428 (poetry only for these authors).

T. Jan. 17—Petrarch and the English Renaissance
Homework: Finish reading sonnets.

Th. Jan. 19—Petrarch and the English Renaissance
Homework: Read Castiglione’s *Courtier*.

Winning friends and just winning

T. Jan. 24—Castiglione’s *Courtier* was published in 1528 by the Aldine Press; Thomas Hoby translated it into English and published it in 1561.
Homework: Read Machiavelli’s *The Prince*.

Th. Jan. 26—Machiavelli’s *Prince* was in circulation by 1513; published 1532 by Antonio Blado d’Asola. Edward Dacres translated it into English and published it in 1640. It had been placed on the Index of Prohibited Books (Index Librorum Prohibitorum) when Pope Paul IV began the list in 1559.
Homework: Read Queen Elizabeth’s works, 593, *Norton*.

T. Jan. 31—Queen Elizabeth, consummate Renaissance Queen/Prince/King.
Homework: Read Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*, 622, *Norton*.

Political “Faerie” tale, Renaissance style

Th. Feb. 2—Discuss *Faerie Queene*. What do “the people” want from Elizabeth?
Homework: **Response 1**.
T. Feb. 7—Finish *Faerie Queene*.

Th. Feb. 9—Catch-up day. **Response 1 due.** Review for Exam 1

T. Feb. 14—**Exam 1**

**Unit Two: Literary Circles and Cultural Notes**

**Note on dates:** Spenser’s Shepherd’s Calendar, 1579, dedicated to Philip Sidney; Sir Philip Sidney’s grand tour, 1572-75; Mary Sidney marries William Herbert, second earl of Pembroke, 1577; Lucy Russell, Countess of Bedford (married to Edward, third earl of Bedford) becomes a patron for John Donne, 1607 or 1608; she is also a patron of Ben Jonson, as is Mary Wroth (ca. 1600-1612). Wroth and Bedford dance in *The Masque of Blackness*, 1605 and *The Masque of Beauty* (1608) by Jonson.

**Of Court, culture, and patronage**

Th. Feb. 16—Begin discussion of Sidney Circle and Sidney’s *Arcadia*—its politics and its place in literary circle culture.
Homework: Finish reading Sidney’s *Arcadia*.

T. Feb. 21—Continue discussion of Sidney.
Homework: Read Mary Sidney Herbert’s verse and Psalms, 957; Samuel Daniel’s poetry, 964; and Fulke Greville’s poetry, 955.

Th. Feb. 23—Discuss Sidney circle’s poetry. [Note also Mary Sidney Herbert’s *Tragedie of Antonie*, a translation of Robert Garnier’s *Marc-Antoine* (1578).]
Homework: Re: next generation—read Jonson, poems, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1408, 1414, and Donne, poems, “To the Countess of Bedford… Reason is our soul’s left hand…” (http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poems/countess-bedford-madam-reason-our-souls-left-hand-faith-her-right); “To the Countess of Bedford… You have refined me…” (http://www.bartleby.com/357/129.html).

T. Feb. 28—Discuss poetry of compliment and the patronage relationships of Wroth, Jonson, Bedford, and Donne.
Homework: Begin reading Wroth’s *Urania*

Th. Mar. 2—Begin *Urania* discussion. What does Wroth’s work teach us about being a Sidney in the next generation?
Homework: Finish reading *Urania*.

Homework: Response 2.

Th. Mar. 9—Exam 2.
Homework: Read *Merchant of Venice*.

T. Mar. 14—Spring Break

Th. Mar. 16—Spring Break

**Unit Three: Staging the English Renaissance**
Note on dates: 1576, James Burbage builds The Theater; 1587, The Rose Theater is built by Philip Henslowe; 1599, The Globe Theater opens, built by Shakespeare’s company, The Lord Chamberlain’s Men, then burns in 1613 and reopens, 1614-1642, then is demolished in 1644; 1576-1584, Blackfriars’ Theater. Note: 1603, Elizabeth dies; James VI, I ascends the throne. By about 1591, Henry Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke and husband of Mary Sidney Herbert, was the patron for The Earl of Pembroke’s Men, an acting troupe which included Shakespeare and performed some of his plays.


T. Mar. 28—Film Merchant of Venice.


T. Apr. 4—Finish Film Merchant of Venice. Turn in Research Report with Annotated Bibliography. Homework: Read Much Ado. Work on Research Papers.

Th. Apr. 6—Discuss Much Ado. Homework: Read Anger and two Gosynhill Pamphlets on E-Reserve. Work on Research Papers.


Th. Apr. 13— Much Ado Film. Homework: Response 3.

T. Apr. 18—Much Ado Film. Homework: Work on Presentations.


Th. Apr. 27—Review for Exam 3. Research Papers are due.

Final Exam (Exam 3): T. May 2, 2:45-4:45pm