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ENG 3803-001: Renaissance and 17th-Century British Literature

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Dr. Julie Campbell
Office CH 3572
Office hours TTH 11-12:30, 2-3:30, and by appointment

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

E-Text
http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html

E-Reserves
“Jane Anger, her Protection for women…”
“Hic Mulier”
“Haec-Vir”

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

Course Description
English literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is a rich amalgam of English concerns and Continental styles. In this course we will explore the poetry, drama, and prose of a wide variety of writers from these periods, including Queen Elizabeth, Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, Mary Wroth, Ben Jonson, Aemilia Lanyer, William Shakespeare, John Donne, and others. We will examine how these English writers adopted and adapted the literary styles of Continental Europe to ameliorate their own national literature, and we will explore how Continental political and religious trends influenced them. By the end of the semester, you should have both a broad understanding of the shaping forces of the period upon English literature and plenty of experience analyzing key texts from our selection of writers. The exciting developments in literary history during this period make it one of critical interest to scholars today. They give us fascinating insights into “the big picture” of English literature as we have received it, and they beckon us to explore connections between the early modern world and our own.
Policies
--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 a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.
--Have assignments prepared on time. If you're having problems, let me know. Papers more than a week late without a University-approved excuse will not be accepted. 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) as soon as possible.
--Be prepared for class. You'll get a lot 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 ................ 15%
--Macbeth review .................... 10%
--Response writings ................... 10%
Total: 100%

The three exams will cover the three units of study.

The paper topic will be chosen from the assigned texts and issues related to them. I will give you a list of possible areas of study to consider early in the semester because you will be expected to select a topic and begin research early on. The paper will be 7-10 pages long. You will use at least 3-5 outside sources to support your arguments, and they should consist of scholarly books, journal articles, and Internet sources of well-known scholarly repute—no citations from Wikipedia will be accepted. You will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page, for documentation.

Around midterm, you will have a preliminary research report with an annotated bibliography due to show the progress that you have made regarding your research project. Do not worry that we haven't covered the topic that interests you in class—this portion of our study is meant to be independent exploration of a topic that may be completely new to you. It is my hope that your independent study will augment for you what is eventually covered in class and will broaden the scope of the course as a whole for you.

The research report and annotated bibliography will cover the preliminary 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. (You will no doubt do more research by the time you write the paper itself, thus this report is “preliminary.”) The annotated bibliography will consist of bibliographic citations using MLA Style 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.

The Macbeth review will be a 3-5 page drama review in which you critique the EIU production of Macbeth regarding casting and performance; stage design; and adaptation of the play.

The response writings will be concerned with specific assignments and are meant to generate class discussion. You will word process and turn in these assignments.

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.

T. Jan. 14—Discuss syllabus.
Th. Jan. 16—Introduction to the Renaissance period. Look at images of Renaissance art and Elizabeth and James.
Homework: Read Poetry Handouts, as well as Wyatt, 525; Surrey, 569; Spenser, 864; Sidney, 916; Daniel, 964; Shakespeare, 1028; Wroth, 1428 (poetry only for these authors).

Unit One: European Influence and Views of 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; 1553—death of Edward VI; 1558—death of Mary, Elizabeth ascends the throne; 1567—Mary Q. of Scots is imprisoned in England, beheaded, 1587; 1570—Elizabeth I is excommunicated by Pope Pius V; Edmund Spenser’s FQ, 1590, 1596.

Homework: Read Queen Elizabeth’s works, 595, Norton.
Homework: Read Spenser’s Fairy Queen, 614

T. Jan. 28—Finish Elizabeth. Begin Fairy Queen. What do “the people” want from Elizabeth”?
Th. Jan. 30—Finish Fairy Queen.
Homework: Read Sidney’s Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia. Assign Response Writing 1.
T. Feb. 4—Discuss Arcadia. How is Elizabeth viewed in her later years by the young and power-hungry?

Th. Feb 6—Finish Arcadia. Consider the “political” uses of literature that we have seen in this unit. Review for Exam 1. **Response 1 is due.**

T. Feb. 11—Exam 1.
Homework: Read Twelfth Night

**Unit Two: Staging the English Renaissance—and Celebrating Shakespeare’s 450th Birthday**

**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.

Th. Feb. 13—**Twelfth Night** (1601-02)

T. Feb. 18—**Twelfth Night, film.**
Th. Feb. 20—**Twelfth Night, film**
Homework: Read Merchant of Venice (1596-1598). Read Macbeth.

T. Feb. 25—**Merchant** (Note: Performances of Macbeth between Feb. 26, 27, 28, at 7:30pm and March 2, 2pm, in Doudna.)
Th. Feb. 27—**Merchant**

T. Mar. 4—**Merchant, film. Macbeth Review is due.**
Th. Mar. 6—**Merchant, film. Discuss Research Projects.**

T. Mar. 11—Spring Break
Th. Mar. 13—Spring Break
Homework: Read Othello and work on Research Projects.

T. Mar. 18—**Othello** (1603-04). Assign **Response Writing 2.**
Th. Mar. 20—**Othello**

T. Mar. 25—Review for Exam 2. **Response Writing 2 is due.**

T. Apr. 1—**Exam 2. Research Reports and Annotated Bibliographies are due.**
Homework: Read “The Early Seventeenth Century 1603-1660,” 1209; Marlowe, 989 “Passionate Shepherd”; Donne, 1236 (Poetry).
Unit Three: Seventeenth-Century Transitions

Note on dates: James I rules 1603-1625; Charles I rules 1625-1649, when he is beheaded; their respective European queens, Anne of Denmark (1574-1619) and Henriette Maria of France (1609-1669) influenced court culture and politics; 1642—Theaters close; 1649-1660—the Interregnum in England. In 1660, Charles II comes to the throne.

Th. Apr. 3—Discuss the early seventeenth-century. Begin Donne.
Homework: Read George Herbert, 1595; Henry Vaughan, 1615

T. Apr. 8—Finish Donne; begin Herbert and Vaughan.
Homework: Read Jonson’s poetry, 1395.
Th. Apr. 10—Finish Herbert and Vaughan. Discuss Jonson.
Homework: Read Jonson’s Volpone.

T. Apr. 15—Volpone
Homework: Read Lanyer, 1281 and pamphlets in E-Reserves; begin reading Wroth’s Urania.
Th. Apr. 17—Discuss Lanyer. Consider her in context with Jonson.
Homework: Continue reading Urania.

T. Apr. 22—Discuss the pamphlets. Assign Writing Response 3.
Homework: Finish reading Urania.
Th. Apr. 24—Begin discussion of Urania.

T. Apr. 29—Finish discussion of Urania. Writing Response 3 is due.
Th. May 1—Catch-up Day. Review for Exam 3. Research Papers are due.

Final Exam (Exam 3): Mon., May 5, 10:15am-12:15pm.