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ENG 3803-001: Renaissance and Seventeenth English Literature

J Campbell
Eastern Illinois University

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English 3803-001—Renaissance and Seventeenth English Literature
Spring 2007

Dr. Campbell
CH 3572, 581-6974
Office hours TTH 11:00-12:30, 2:00-3:30;
W 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

TTH 3:30-4:45
CH 3160
jdcampbell@eiu.edu

Texts
Cerasano/Wynne-Davies, Renaissance Drama by Women
Erickson, Carolly, The First Elizabeth
Shakespeare, Much Ado About Nothing
Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night’s Dream
(Note: You may use any hard copy of this text that you like.)

E-Reserves
Lewalski, “Exercising Power: The Countess of Bedford” and
“Revising Genres and Claiming the Woman’s Part: Mary Wroth’s Oeuvre”

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 this period, including Queen Elizabeth, Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, Mary Wroth, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, William Shakespeare, John Donne, 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 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.

--Hand papers in on time. **Papers more than a class day late without a University-approved excuse will not be accepted. Missed in-class group work cannot be made up.**

--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%
--One presentation ................... 10%
--Response writings ..................... 10%

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 must be 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 research that you do for your research paper and presentation. The report will address the topic, why you chose the topic, and the avenues of research that you chose to explore. 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.

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 give me the paper and form during the last two weeks of the course.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**Note:** Readings may be shifted around during the semester to accommodate the class discussion.

**Jan. 9**—Look over syllabus.  

**Th. Jan. 11**—Introduction to the Renaissance period.  
**Homework:** Read *Poetry Handout*, as well as skim Wyatt poetry, 525; Earl of Surrey poetry, 569; Sidney poetry, 916; Shakespeare poetry, 1028; Wroth poetry, 1428.

**Unit One: European Influence and a Sense of the Times**

**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; 1567—Mary Q. of Scots is imprisoned in England; 1570—Elizabeth I is excommunicated by Pope Pius V.

**T. Jan. 16**—Petrarch and the English Renaissance: See *Poetry Handout*.  
**Homework:** Read Hoby and Castiglione’s *Courtier*, 577, Norton

**Th. Jan. 18**—Hoby and Castiglione’s *Courtier*.  
**Homework:** Read Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, focusing on Chs. 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, and 26. These are the chapters to print out to bring to class. Read also Queen Elizabeth’s works, p. 595 in Norton and skim her *Hercules Oetaeus* in *Renaissance Drama by Women*.

**T. Jan. 23**—Machiavelli and Elizabeth  
**Homework:** Read Spenser’s *Fairy Queen*, 614, Norton, (Note: assignment is spread over two classes).

**Th. Jan. 25**—Spenser and *The Fairy Queen*

**T. Jan. 30**—Spenser and *The Fairy Queen*
Th. Feb 1—Catch-up day; discuss projects. See Research Project Handout.

T. Feb. 6—Review for Exam 1

Th. Feb. 8—Exam 1.

Homework: Read The First Elizabeth, Parts 3 and 4. Read John Lyly, 906; Thomas Nashe, 1202; Sir Philip Sidney, Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia, 912, Norton.

Unit Two: Cultural Notes/Literary Circles

Note on dates: Sir Philip Sidney's grand tour, 1572-75; Mary Sidney marries William Herbert, second earl of Pembroke, 1577; Countess of Bedford (married to Edward, third earl of Bedford) becomes a patron for John Donne, 1607 or 1608. Mary Wroth and Bedford dance in The Masque of Blackness, 1605.


Homework: Read Mary Sidney Herbert, 957, Norton, and skim her Tragedy of Antonie, Renaissance Drama by Women; Read also Samuel Daniel, 964; John Donne, 1236-41, Norton and Lewalski, "Exercising Power: The Countess of Bedford."

Th. Feb. 15—Individual Research Project Report with Annotated Bibliography is due. Mary Sidney Herbert and Samuel Daniel; Lucy Harington Russell, and John Donne: Literary Circles and patronage. Discuss poetry of compliment and closet drama.

Homework: Read Mary Wroth's Love's Victory in Renaissance Drama by Women and Lewalski's "Revising Genres and Claiming the Woman's Part: Mary Wroth's Oeuvre." Read also Ben Jonson, 1294, Masque of Blackness, Norton.

T. Feb. 20—Wroth and Jonson: Closet drama and court performances.

Homework: Read Marlowe, Hero and Leander, 970, Norton.

Th. Feb. 22—Hero and Leander.

T. Feb. 27—Catch-up day. Review for Exam 2.

Th. Mar. 1—Exam 2. Read The First Elizabeth, Parts 5 and 6. Read also Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

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.

T. Mar. 6—Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Th. Mar. 8—MND
Homework: Be COMPLETING your Research Report with Annotated Bibliography.

**T. Mar. 13**—Spring Break
**Th. Mar. 15**—Spring Break

**T. Mar. 20**—Research Project Report with Annotated Bibliography is due.
*MND Film.*

**Th. Mar. 22**—*MND* Film.
**Homework:** Read Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, 1045 in Norton.

**T. Mar. 27**—*TN*
**Th. Mar. 29**—*TN*

**T. Apr. 3**—*TN* Film.
**Th. Apr. 5**—*TN* Film.
**Homework:** Read Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*.

**T. Apr. 10**—*Much Ado*.
**Th. Apr. 12**—*Much Ado* Film. **Sign up for Presentations.**

**T. Apr. 17**—*Much Ado* Film.
**Homework:** Be COMPLETING presentations.
**Th. Apr. 19**—Presentations

**T. Apr. 24**—Presentations. **Research papers are due.**
**Th. Apr. 26**—Presentations. **Review for Exam 3**