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ENG 3803-001: Renaissance and Seventeenth Literature

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English 3803—Renaissance and Seventeenth Literature
Spring 2001

Dr. Campbell
CH 316B
Office hours TTH 9:15-11:00, W 11:00-11:30

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, Elizabeth Cary, Aemilia Lanyer, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, William Shakespeare, John Donne, and others. We will explore how these English writers adopted and adapted the literary trends of Continental Europe to ameliorate their own national literature. We will also examine the complementarities of the works by English men and women of these periods, exploring the ways in which their works respond intertextually to each other. 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. If you’re having problems, let me know. Papers a week or more late will not be accepted at all. Also plan to show up for exams. Again, if you have problems, let me know. You will have no more than one week to make up an exam, and the make-up exam will 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

--Midterm exam .......... 30%
--One 7-10 page paper .... 15%
--One presentation ......... 10%
--Response writings ........ 15%
--Final exam .............. 30%

Exams: The two exams will cover the units of the semester; however, there will be interplay between these units of study in our discussions and in the test questions, and the final exam will have some comprehensive elements.

Paper: The paper topic will be chosen from subjects that arise in class, regarding the assigned texts. I will give you a list of possible areas of study to consider. You should use at least five outside sources to support your arguments, at least three of which are journal articles and books, and you will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page.

Presentation: The presentation will be a short introduction (about 5-7 minutes) to some aspect of background material for the period or texts covered.

Response Writings: The response writings will be concerned with specific reading assignments and are meant to generate class discussion. I will give you a series of questions to answer or a short topic to address.

Tentative Schedule

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

T. Jan. 9—Introduction to the course.
Th. Jan. 11—Discuss Continental influences: Renaissance humanism, Petrarchism, Exploration
Read: The Sixteenth Century, 1485-1603
Sir Thomas More, The Utopia

T. Jan. 16—Poetry: Sir Thomas Wyatt and Sir Henry Howard
Th. Jan. 18—Conduct Books: Sir Thomas Hoby/Baldassare Castiglione, The Courtier

T. Jan. 23—Roger Ascham, The Schoolmaster; The Italianate Englishman; Queen Elizabeth in both the Norton and the Cerasano-Wynne Davies anthologies. See also BWWP.

T. Jan. 30—Edmund Spenser, The Faerie Queene
Th. Feb. 1—Spenser, continued.

T. Feb. 6—Sir Philip Sidney, The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia; Astrophil and Stella
Th. Feb. 8—Sidney, continued.

T. Feb. 13—Response Writing, due typed, next period.
Th. Feb. 15—Mary (Sidney) Herbert, from both the Norton and Cerasano-Wynne Davies anthologies. See also BWWP.
T. Feb. 20—Christopher Marlowe, poetry
Th. Feb. 22—Shakespeare, sonnets.

T. Feb. 27—Review
Th. Mar. 1—Midterm Exam

T. Mar. 6—Shakespeare, *Much Ado about Nothing*
Th. Mar. 8—*Much Ado*

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

T. Mar. 20—*Much Ado*, film
Th. Mar. 22—*Much Ado*, film

T. Mar. 27—Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*
Th. Mar. 29—*Twelfth Night*

T. Apr. 3—Read: The Early Seventeenth Century, 1603-1660
Th. Apr. 5—Poetry: John Donne and Aemilia Lanyer

T. Apr. 10—Ben Jonson, *The Masque of Blackness*; “A Sonnet, to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth”; “Queen and Huntress”; “To the Memory of My Beloved, The Author, Mr. William Shakespeare, and What He Hath Left Us.” Begin Mary Wroth—both in Norton and in Cerasano-Wynne Davies anthologies. See also BWWP.
Th. Apr. 12—Wroth, continued.

T. Apr. 17—Wroth, continued.
Th. Apr. 19—Response Writing, due typed, next class.

T. Apr. 24—Catch-up day.
Th. Apr. 26—Review.

Final Exam