

Drama and Poetry of the English Renaissance

AINMO/AILMO 0101

Spring 2016

Room E418

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Meetings: Monday 15:00 - 17:25

Office hours: Monday 17:30-18:30, Rm 546

Drama and Poetry of the English Renaissance

This course offers a survey of different early modern poetic and dramatic texts, as well as some contemporary theoretical writings. The initial aim is to explore the first fundamental steps in the development and self-fashioning of English literature, and then to take a look at a variety of important developments in the literature of the time (pastoral poetry, the sonnet culture, the formation of the epic tradition, and the different genres of drama). While the specific focus of the seminar is the development of English literature generally, and the commercial theatre particularly, an attempt is made at the exploration of the wider cultural-historical context of the works discussed.

Schedule:

Week 1 (1 February)	Orientation
Week 2 (8 February)	The Beginnings of the English Renaissance <i>The Land of Cokaygne</i> , excerpts from Golding's tr. of <i>Metamorphoses</i> , T. More: <i>What is the Best Form of Commonwealth</i> , preface to Tottel's <i>Miscellany</i> + Wyatt's <i>Long love...</i> , Surrey's <i>Love, that doth reign...</i> Reference: Mary T. Crane, "Early Tudor Humanism," in <i>Blackwell Companion to Renaissance Literature and Culture</i> , 13-26.
Week 3 (15 February)	The Significance of Tottel's Miscellany Readings: Tottel's <i>Songs and Sonettes</i> , preface + poems by Wyatt and Surrey
Week 4 (22 February)	Spenser's Debut Readings: "October" from <i>The Shepheardes Calendar</i>
Week 5 (29 February)	The English Sonnet Readings: a selection of sonnets by Sidney, Spenser, Drayton, Lady Mary Wroth, John Donne Reference: Chapter 9 ("Thee (my selfe)': The Sonnets of Shakespeare") from Michael Spiller, <i>The Development of the Sonnet. An Introduction</i> (London, New York: Routledge, 1992), pp. 149-174.
Week 6 (7 March)	Metaphysical Poetry Readings: a selection of poems by John Donne and Andrew Marvell
Week 7 (16 March)	National Holiday
Week 8 (23 March)	Neo-Latin poetry in late c16-early c17 England Readings: Stephanus Parmenius "De Navigatione", John Owen: selected epigrams Reference:
Week 9 (30 March)	Spring Break

Week 10 (6 April)	The Devil May Care Reading: C. Marlowe, <i>The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus</i> References: Marcus, Leah S. "Textual Indeterminacy and Ideological Difference: The Case of" Doctor Faustus"." <i>Renaissance Drama</i> (1989): 1-29; Guenther, Genevieve. "Why Devils Came When Faustus Called Them." <i>Modern Philology</i> 109.1 (2011): 46-70.
Week 11 (13 April)	A Shakespearean Problem Play Reading: W. Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
Week 12 (20 April)	The Shape of Jacobean Comedy Reading: J. Marston's <i>The Malcontent</i> Reference: Champion, Larry S. "The Malcontent and the Shape of Elizabethan-Jacobean Comedy." <i>Studies in English literature, 1500-1900</i> (1985): 361-379.
Week 13 (27 April)	The Uses of Travel in Caroline England Richard Brome: <i>The Antipodes</i> , William Davenant, "Madagascar. A Poem written to Prince Rupert". Reference: Jowitt, Claire. "'To sleep, perchance to Dream': The Politics of Travel in the 1630s." <i>Yearbook of English Studies</i> 44 (2014): 249-264.
Week 14 (4 May)	Summary and Evaluation

Requirements: To complete this course, students must read the assigned primary texts and the secondary literature. They also have to prepare a 15-20-minute presentation on a given topic based on primary and secondary sources.

In the last class, students will complete an end-term test based on the course material.

After the end of the course, a 8-10 double spaced pages end-term essay (with apparatus) should be submitted. Essays should follow the latest MLA or Chicago style format (access will be provided).

Assessment:

Presentation (20%), class participation (20%), end-term test (20%) end-term essay (40%).

Essays due: 30 May 2015.

Absence: twice.

Bibliography

(articles excluded – find them above)

Bevington, David M. ed. *Twentieth century interpretations of Hamlet: a collection of critical essays*. Prentice-Hall, 1968.

Cox , John D. and David Scott Kastan , eds. *A New History of Early English Drama*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

De Grazia, Margreta, and Stanley W. Wells, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

- Greenblatt, Stephen. *Renaissance Self-Fashioning. From More to Shakespeare*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1980.
- Gurr, Andrew. *The Shakespearean Stage, 1574-1642*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980.
- Hattaway, Michael, ed. *A companion to English Renaissance literature and culture*. John Wiley & Sons, 2008.
- Haber, Judith Deborah. *Desire and dramatic form in early modern England*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Howard, Jean E. *The Stage and Social Struggle in Early Modern England*. London, New York: Routledge, 1994.
- Ribner, Irving. *Jacobean tragedy: the quest for moral order*. Methuen, 1979.
- Sanders, Julie. *The Cambridge Introduction to Early Modern Drama, 1576–1642*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Shaughnessy, Robert, ed. *The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare and popular culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Wells, Stanley. *Shakespeare and Co.: Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Dekker, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, John Fletcher and the Other Players in His Story*. Vintage, 2009.