

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 4530 6.0A (Y)

Renaissance Theatre

Course Director:

Dr. Bernice Neal

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Thursdays, 11:30am - 2:30pm, BC-325

Description:

This course offers an intensive study of Renaissance theatre. It focuses on how Elizabethan and Jacobean drama engaged with changing religious, political, and cultural events and ideas. It looks as well at how this period's theatres provided arenas for fashioning national, royal, class, religious, and gender identities. We will take up just one of Shakespeare's plays, devoting most of this course to the works of his many contemporary playwrights, including Greene, Marlowe, Beaumont, Dekker, Middleton, and Webster. We will pay attention to genre, staging and stage props, literary sources, and reception history, and consider the works' metatheatricality and intertextuality, with the help of some secondary readings. Also, we will consider themes including sexuality, kingship and queenship, colonial expansion, magic and the supernatural, antitheatricality, and religious reform.

Course Learning Objectives:

Students taking this course should develop their abilities to:

- Read and interpret early modern works, with particular attention to genre, structure, style, targeted audience, and cultural context.
- Become familiar with the Renaissance and its key events, gaining an understanding of its central ideas and preoccupations.
- Examine the available information about early modern playhouses, playwrights, and playgoers, using online resources to inquire into the place of drama in the sixteenth and seventeenth century, and into the development of the Renaissance theatre.
- Think critically and write analytic and persuasive papers.

Category:

C

Historical Requirement:

Time Period I (pre-1700)

Requirements:

Fall term essay: 20%

Winter term essay proposal and bibliography: 10%

Winter term essay: 25%

Presentation: 20%

Reading responses: 15%

Participation: 10%

Reading List:

The recommended textbook is David Bevington's *English Renaissance Drama* (Norton), which is available at the campus bookstore. Also acceptable are critical editions of individual plays published by Oxford, Cambridge, or Arden. Secondary readings will be primarily drawn from the Cambridge *Companion to English Renaissance Drama* (edited by Braunmuller), also available at the campus bookstore; a few other readings will be provided or available online.

The only two works not available in the Bevington anthology, and which must be acquired separately, are:

Ben Jonson, *The Masque of Blackness*, in *The Routledge Anthology of Renaissance Drama* (edited by Simon Barker and Hilary Hinds, 2003), pp. 222-230. This edition is available electronically at York U library.

- William Shakespeare, *Pericles*. Signet edition. This edition will be available at the campus bookstore. Also acceptable are the Oxford, Arden, or Cambridge editions.

Reading List:

The primary works we will be studying are, in the following order:

Robert Greene, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*

Christopher Marlowe, *Faustus*

Anonymous, *Arden of Faversham*

Thomas Dekker, *The Shoemaker's Holiday*

Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist*

Ben Jonson, *The Masque of Blackness*

William Shakespeare (and George Wilkins?), *Pericles*

Francis Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*

Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, *The Maid's Tragedy*

Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker, *The Roaring Girl*

Open To:

Yr 4 H