

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



## Department of English & Writing Studies

### **Renaissance Drama English 3226E (001) Fall/Winter 2013-14**

**Instructor:** Dr. J. Johnston

**Date/Time:** Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am  
Thursday 11:30am-12:30pm

**Location:** University College 289

#### Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): English 2420E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

#### Course Description

This course explores twelve plays from the early modern period, when the opening of professional theatres in England produced many of the greatest authors of British literary history, including Marlowe, Jonson, Webster, and Middleton. In addition to focusing on the formal aspects of the plays we encounter, we will be urged to think about how these texts draw upon and exploit common representational resources of the early modern imaginary, resources both verbal and visual, to accomplish their cultural and rhetorical work.

Considerations of composition and performance will necessarily take into account the nature of the plays we engage as culturally embedded artefacts. To that end, we will come to see how they almost invariably (and often self-consciously) register tensions and anxieties that reproduce, contribute to, and comment on aspects of the various social, political, scientific, and religious upheavals that defined the later sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

#### **Objectives:**

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Offer an understanding of the importance of historical/national perspectives, and how the construction and consumption of material culture are products of time, events and context;
- Explain how the dominant representational/imaginative material in a historical period (here the early modern period) may be used to signify social status, subjectivity, cultural identity, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, political power, and state nationalism;

- Continue developing research skills with a view both to augmenting their knowledge of early modern literature and culture and to incorporating the results of their research into essays and other assignments;
- Develop a capacity to engage critically with scholarly literature, assessing the relative merits of an argument in essays and other written/oral assignments, and articulating their own positions within the context of a particular, ongoing scholarly discussion

### Course Materials

#### **Required Texts:**

Bevington, David et al., eds. *English Renaissance Drama: A Norton Anthology*. New York: Norton, 2002.

#### **Recommended (as always):**

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009.

#### Methods of Evaluation

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Essay 1 (2000 words)                     | 20% |
| Essay 2 (2500 words)                     | 25% |
| Learning Cell                            | 5%  |
| Literature Review/Annotated Bibliography | 5%  |
| Midterm Test                             | 10% |
| Final Exam                               | 35% |

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

#### **Timetable:**

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| Sept. | 10 | Introduction to the course   |
|       | 12 | Early modern drama: social, material, political contexts           |
|       | 17 | <b>Thomas Kyd, <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> (NA 3)</b>               |
|       | 19 | <i>Spanish Tragedy</i>   |
|       | 24 | <i>Spanish Tragedy</i>   |
|       | 26 | <i>Spanish Tragedy</i>   |
| Oct   | 1  | <b>Robert Greene, <i>Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay</i> (NA 129)</b> |
|       | 3  | <i>Bacon and Bungay</i>  |
|       | 8  | <i>Bacon and Bungay</i>  |
|       | 10 | <i>Bacon and Bungay</i> [Learning Cell due]                        |

|     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
|     | 15 | <b>Christopher Marlowe, <i>Tamburlaine the Great, Pt. 1</i></b> (NA 183)       |
|     | 17 | <i>Tamburlaine</i>   |
|     | 22 | <i>Tamburlaine</i>   |
|     | 24 | <i>Tamburlaine</i>   |
|     | 29 | <b>Marlowe, <i>Edward II</i></b> (NA 351)                                      |
| Nov | 5. | <i>Edward II</i>   |
|     | 7  | <i>Edward II</i>   |
|     | 12 | <b>Thomas Dekker, <i>The Shoemaker's Holiday</i></b> (NA 483)                  |
|     | 14 | <i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i>   |
|     | 19 | <i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i>   |
|     | 21 | <i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i> [Essay 1 due]                                       |
|     | 26 | <b>Elizabeth Cary, <i>The Tragedy of Mariam</i></b> (NA 615)                   |
|     | 28 | <i>Tragedy of Mariam</i>   |
| Dec | 3  | <i>Tragedy of Mariam</i>   |
|     | 5  | <i>Tragedy of Mariam</i>   |
| Jan | 7  | <b>Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, <i>The Maid's Tragedy</i></b> (NA 1141) |
|     | 9  | <i>Maid's Tragedy</i>  |
|     | 14 | <i>Maid's Tragedy</i>  |
|     | 16 | <i>Maid's Tragedy</i>  |
|     | 21 | <b>Midterm Test</b>  |
|     | 23 | <b>Ben Jonson, <i>The Alchemist</i></b> (NA 861)                               |
|     | 28 | <i>Alchemist</i>   |
|     | 30 | <i>Alchemist</i>   |
| Feb | 4  | <b>Jonson, <i>Bartholomew Fair</i></b> (NA 961)                                |
|     | 6  | <i>Bartholomew Fair</i>  |
|     | 11 | <i>Bartholomew Fair</i>  |
|     | 13 | <i>Bartholomew Fair</i>  |
|     | 25 | <b>Thomas Middleton, <i>The Revenger's Tragedy</i></b> (NA 1297)               |
|     | 27 | <i>Revenger's Tragedy</i> [Literature Review due]                              |
| Mar | 4  | <i>Revenger's Tragedy</i>  |
|     | 6  | <i>Revenger's Tragedy</i>  |
|     | 11 | <b>Middleton, <i>A Chaste Maid in Cheapside</i></b> (NA 1453)                  |
|     | 13 | <i>Chaste Maid</i>   |
|     | 18 | <i>Chaste Maid</i>   |
|     | 20 | <i>Chaste Maid</i> [Essay 2 due]   |
|     | 25 | <b>John Webster, <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i></b> (NA 1749)                     |
|     | 27 | <i>Duchess of Malfi</i>  |
| Apr | 1  | <i>Duchess of Malfi</i>  |
|     | 3  | <i>Duchess of Malfi</i>  |

**Assignments:**

Assignments are due in-class on the date specified. Unless we have negotiated an extension, late essays will be penalized two percent per day for up to fourteen days, after which they will not be accepted. You must approach me for extensions well ahead of the due date; they are not automatic.

If necessary, you may submit essays to the English Department Drop Box outside UC 173, making sure you include your instructor's name and your section number. However, do not fax assignments, email them, or slide them under our office doors. Also, note that you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted.

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your essays electronically, through SAKAI, to Turnitin.com.

**Attendance:**

Obviously, attendance at lecture is necessary and expected. Excessive absenteeism is grounds for debarring a student from taking the final examination. The 2012 Academic Calendar states the following: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course" (p. 35).

If you have good reasons for waiving an absence, discuss these with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged, then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

### Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.