

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Dangerous Desire in the Renaissance**  
**English 3320G (001)**  
Winter 2018

**Instructor:** Dr. Madeline Bassnett  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 9:30-12:30 pm

**Teaching Assistant:** Ian Hynd  
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AHB 2G28  
**Office Hours:** Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
12:30-1:30 pm

**Course Date/Time:** Mon. 2:30-3:30 pm,  
Wed. 1:30-3:30 pm

**Course Location:** AHB 2R21

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or 1042E or both of English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

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

Renaissance poets were the pop stars of their time, with love lyrics at the top of their charts. Besides creating a vocabulary of love and desire that we still draw on today, Renaissance love poets developed new forms of expression—from the sonnet to the epyllion—to interrogate, celebrate, and experiment with the potential and limits of love and desire.

This course will examine the profuse complexity of Renaissance love poetry by men and women, queer and straight. Love poems were transgressive, fantastical, and even political. They allowed both men and women to break through cultural and religious restrictions on the expression of desire, even as they gave poets a language to discuss gendered and political dynamics of dominance and submission. While we will read many of the renowned poets of the period, such as William Shakespeare, John Donne, Mary Wroth, Christopher Marlowe, Katherine Philips, Philip Sidney, and Andrew Marvell, we will also examine Renaissance ideas about love and desire through documentary and popular material, such as conduct books and ballads. By setting the language of love within its cultural context, we will discover how radically—and dangerously—transformative desire can be.

### **Objectives:**

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Engage critically and creatively with Renaissance literature;
- Use critical and historical source material effectively;
- Analyse poetry with reference to generic, formal, rhetorical, and prosodic techniques;
- Develop effective arguments through a combination of close reading and independent research;
- Evaluate and integrate secondary criticism into their own arguments;
- Discover connections between the past and present.

## Course Materials

### **Required Texts:**

*Broadview Coursepack* bundled with Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam*

Plus selected readings (as indicated on the Course Outline) available through OWL. I encourage you to print out this material and bring it to class along with the coursepack.

## Methods of Evaluation

### **Assignments:**

Participation	10%
Sonnet analysis (1000 words)	15%
Annotated bibliography	15%
Final Paper (2500-3000 words)	25%
3 Hour Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

### **Participation and Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 9 hours of classes, you will lose your participation grade. Regular attendance is required to take the final exam. Successful learning happens only if you attend class, do the readings, and come prepared to participate. The participation grade will take into account class attendance AND active involvement in and contribution to class and small group discussions.

### **Sonnet Analysis: Due February 7**

This short 1000 word paper will provide a close reading and argument about one of the sonnets on the syllabus. I will provide further instructions in the first two weeks of class.

### **Annotated Bibliography: Due March 7**

This assignment will ask students to annotate a selection of secondary source material in preparation for the final essay.

### **Final Paper: Due March 28**

The final essay (2500-3000 words) will allow students to explore further the topic of desire in relation to Renaissance literature through research and analysis. I will provide further instructions for both the Annotated Bibliography and the Final Paper on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Final Exam**

There will be a three-hour closed book, written exam during the April examination period. It will cover the entire term's work.

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/Student%20Information.html>

**Timetable:**

**Note:** coursepack page numbers refer to the coursepack pagination, and includes short biographical details.

Jan.	8	<b>Introduction</b>	
	10	<b>Laying the Foundations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thomas Wyatt, "The Lover for Shamefastness," "Description of the Contrarious Passions in a Lover," "The Lover Compareth His State to a Ship," "Whoso List to Hunt" (CP 4-7)</li><li>• Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, "Description of Spring," "Complaint of a Lover Rebuked," "Description and Praise of His Love Geraldine," "A Complaint by Night of the Lover Not Beloved" (CP 1-3)</li></ul>
	15	<b>Blazoning Desire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Philip Sidney, <i>Astrophil and Stella</i>, Sonnet 9 (CP 10)</li><li>• Richard Barnfield, <i>Cynthia</i>, Sonnet 10, 17 (CP 23-25)</li><li>• Edmund Spenser, <i>Amoretti</i>, Sonnet 9, 15, 64 (CP 26-29)</li><li>• William Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i>, Sonnet 130 (CP 58)</li></ul>
	17		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nancy J. Vickers, "Diana Described: Scattered Woman and Scattered Rhyme" (OWL)</li></ul>
	22	<b>Unrequited Desire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Philip Sidney, <i>Astrophil and Stella</i>, Sonnets 1, 5, 47, 53, 81, 82, Fourth Song, 87, 93, 108 (CP 8-16)</li><li>• Philip Sidney, Second Song (OWL)</li></ul>
	24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Philip Sidney, Book 1 excerpt from <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i> (CP 18-22)</li><li>• Francis Bacon, "Of Love" (CP 61-64)</li></ul>
	29	<b>Shakespeare's Triangles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• William Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i>, 2, 3, 12, 20, 40, 42, 87, 89, 90, 99, 129, 135, 138, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151, 154 (CP 30, 51-60)</li></ul>
	31		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• from Anne Carson, <i>Eros the Bittersweet</i> (OWL)</li></ul>
Feb.	5	<b>Marlowe's Queer Eye</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christopher Marlowe, <i>Hero and Leander</i> (CP 65-79)</li></ul>
	7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• from Juan Luis Vives, <i>The Instruction of a Christian Woman</i>, "Of the Learning of Maids" (CP 80-85)</li><li>• <b>Sonnet analysis due</b></li></ul>
	12	<b>Pursued by Desire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• William Shakespeare, <i>Venus and Adonis</i> (CP 31-51)</li></ul>
	14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• from Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>, Book 10, "Venus and Adonis" (OWL)</li><li>• <b>Final Paper/Annotated Bibliography handout</b></li></ul>

- 19-23** Reading Week
- 26**     **Jealousy**
- Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam* (single edition)
- 28**
- Nicholas Breton, "A Wanton Woman," "A Quiet Woman" (CP 86-87)
  - Appendix B from *The Tragedy of Mariam*: Extracts 2, 4, 7, 8.
- Mar. 5**     **Desiring Women**
- Mary Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*, 1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 35, 77, 81, "Railing Rhymes" and "In Context" (CP 88-92, 94-95)
- 7**
- from Mary Wroth, *The Countess of Montgomery's Urania* (Abridged) (OWL)
  - **Annotated Bibliography due**
- 12**     **Metaphysical Desire**
- John Donne, "The Apparition," "Love's Alchemy," "The Indifferent," "Confined Love," "A Valediction: Of Weeping," "Farewell to Love"(CP 96-102)
- 14**
- John Donne, "Elegy 19: To His Mistress Going to Bed" (CP 103-104)
  - John Donne, "Paradox 1"; "Paradox 6"; "Problem 6" (CP 106-108)
- 19**     **Lesbian (?) Desire**
- John Donne, "Sappho to Philaenis" (CP 105)
- 21**
- Katherine Philips, "Friendship's Mystery, To My Dearest Lucasia," "To My Excellent Lucasia, On Our Friendship," "Orinda to Lucasia parting October 1661 at London," "Orinda to Lucasia" (CP 109-115)
  - Constance Fowler, letter excerpt, "Never more passionate affectionate lovers" (OWL)
- 26**     **Green Desire**
- Andrew Marvell, "The Garden," "The Mower's Song," "Damon the Mower" (CP 116, 119-123)
- 28**
- Aemilia Lanyer, "The Description of Cooke-ham" (CP 124-128)
  - **Final paper due**
- Apr. 2**     **Metaphysical and Beyond**
- Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (CP 117-118)
  - Robert Herrick, "Cherry-Ripe," "Delight in Disorder," "The Bracelet to Julia," "Fresh Cheese and Cream," "Upon Julia's Clothes" (CP 129-134)
- 4**
- Thomas Carew, "A Rapture" (CP 135-138)
  - John Suckling, "A Candle" (CP 139-140)
- 9**
- Aphra Behn, "The Disappointment" (CP 141-144)
- 11**
- **Exam Review**

### Additional Information

#### **Technology Use**

Please keep the classroom technology free. Except when necessary (e.g. to read OWL material), please put away all laptops, iPads, cellphones, and other gadgets. If you have legitimate need for any of these items (on an ongoing or specific basis), please talk to me.

#### **Email**

I check email on a regular basis Monday to Friday, and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not expect an immediate response from me on weekends.

#### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments will be due in class. You may submit late assignments to the essay box outside the Department of English office (AHB 2G02), where they will be date- and time-stamped. Essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. in the essay box are stamped with the previous day's date. This also applies to essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. Monday, which will be stamped with Friday's date. (i.e. this can save you late penalties)

#### **Please do not put any assignments under office doors.**

Please remember that the Department will not accept assignments by fax or email. If necessary, and by prior arrangement only, assignments may be sent to me at the Department by post or courier.

#### **Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.**

#### **Late Assignments**

If you submit a paper after the due date, but within two weeks of this date, the paper will be counted as late, and the following procedures will apply:

1. The paper will not be read until all previous assignments have been read and marked, and depending on the extent of the lateness, may be returned at a later date.
2. A grade will be given, but no (or minimal) comments or corrections will be provided.
3. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day (including weekends) that it is late. The arrangement for date-stamping essays (identified above) still applies.

**PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SUBMITTED MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.**

### 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:**

Plagiarism includes:

1. quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. submitting someone else's work, in whatever form without acknowledgement;
4. knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.

In short: 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. **When in doubt, cite your sources and/or check with me.**

### **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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### 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.