

Carleton University
Department of English Language and Literature

English 4301 (B)

Winter 2014

Studies in Renaissance Literature: Constructions of Criminality in Early Modern England.

Wednesday 11:35-2:25 (Please confirm location and time on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Dr. David Stymeist

Email: dstymeist@yahoo.ca

Office: Office: 1819 DT

Office Phone: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

This course investigates early modern representations of crime, criminality, and justice in both official and popular realms. As such the course will look at a wide variety of texts including judicial records, criminal legislation, news pamphlets, rogue literature, populist ballads, and public dramas. As early modern notions of criminality are foundational for our present legal system and popular attitudes towards crime and criminals, the course will trace the development of criminal discourses, such as the growth of vagrancy stereotypes in the period. Alongside murder, treason, theft and sedition, we will examine the emergence of social crimes, such as prostitution, sodomy, cross-dressing, petty treason, and witchcraft. The course will interrogate the Renaissance belief in an organized and conspiratorial criminal anti-society. In addition, this course is designed to assess and critique the work of some of the more influential critics and theorists on the subject of Renaissance criminality.

In this fourth year honors seminar a significant amount of the content will actually be designated by the students themselves. Using the electronic resource EEBO, students will locate a non-canonical Renaissance text, such as a news pamphlet, that discusses some aspect of contemporary crime that the rest of the class will then study. As such, classes will especially emphasize active learning and learning through teaching (LDL). I expect every student to attend, read the required texts, and come prepared to engage in lively discussions. The more you are willing to put into the class, the more you will get out of it!

Texts

William Rowley, Thomas Dekker, and John Ford, *The Witch of Edmonton*.

Course Texts (critical essays, source materials)

EEBO crime texts (available on-line through Carleton Libraries)

E-texts

*Note: Students for this course are required to post e-links or digital copies on WebCt, or hand out photocopies of their presentation text(s) for the rest of the class (max.15 copies) **one week** prior to their presentations.

* All texts will be available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue, just off Bank Street (233-2589) / www.octopusbooks.ca

Required Assignments

Research Presentation (EEBO)	20-25 min.	30%
Research Essay (End of Term)	2800 wds.	35%
Participation and Attendance		10%
Term Test		25%

The mark distribution for the year will be Term Grade: 100%. Class participation marks will include participation in class discussion, response to written comments on graded assignments, consistent attendance, and full reading preparation for each assigned text. As consistent attendance is expected in this class, students are required to attend an absolute minimum of 60% of the classes; students failing to meet this minimum requirement will be barred from the term test and will receive an automatic failure.

All assignments must be handed in on the date specified unless cleared previously with the professor. Papers must be handed to me in person or to the drop box in the English department office (1812 Dunton Tower) on the due date. If you choose to use the drop box, you must be prepared to incur any late penalties that may accumulate due to the unlikely occurrence of the paper's loss or misfiling. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day that the assignment is overdue. Papers without medical extension will not be accepted after two weeks of the due date. No faxes or emails of essays will be accepted. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Students can expect to receive graded feedback in a timely manner; the instructor reserves the right to limit commentary on late essays. Students are required to submit all major assignments (essay, presentation, and term test) in order to pass the course as a whole.

Class etiquette: Turn off cell phones during class time. Text messaging is not allowed during class.

Grading System:

Assignments in this course will be graded using the letter grading system: A-, A, A+ (Excellent); B-, B, B+ (Good); C-, C, C+ (Satisfactory); D, D+ (Minimal pass); F (Failure). Percentage conversion: A+ (90-100%), A (85-89), A- (80-84), B+ (77-79), B (73-76), B- (70-72), C+ (67-69), C (63-66), C- (60-62), D+ (57-59), D (53-56), D (50-52), F (0-49).

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university.

Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities.

For Student with Disabilities	Contact Paul Menton Centre (6608) to obtain <i>letters of accommodations</i> .
For Religious Observance	To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Consult Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy And list of Holy Days (www.carleton.ca/equity)
For Pregnancy	Contact Equity Services (ext. 5622) to obtain <i>letters of accommodation</i> .

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 8, 2013 for the Fall term and March 7, 2014 for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

Schedule (tentative)

Jan. 8 *** First day of classes (**Note: it is vital to attend this class**) ***

Course introduction. EEBO Tutorial

Jan. 15 **Early Modern Crime and Punishment: Theoretical and Critical Contexts**
Michel Foucault, "The Spectacle of the Scaffold," *Discipline and Punish* (32-65)
J.A. Sharpe, "Courts, Officers, and Documents," *Crime in Early Modern England, 1550-1750*.
Susan Dwyer Amussen, Chapter I, "Punishment, Discipline, and Power: The Social Meanings of Violence in Early Modern England." (supplementary reading).

Jan. 22, 29 **Witchcraft**
Reginald Scott, *Discoverie of Witchcraft*; King James, *Daemonology* (selections)
William Rowley, Thomas Dekker, and John Ford, *The Witch of Edmonton*

Weeks 4-8 **Student Selected Crime Texts: Class Presentations** (3x Class max)
(Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12)

Feb. 17-21 **Spring Break/Reading Week**

March 19 **Vagrants and Rogues; Petty Treason.**
Thomas Harman, *Caveat for Common Cursitors* (e-text)
"The Adultresses Funerall Day."

March 26 Review. Screening, *The Return of Martin Guerre*.

April 2 **Last day of class. Term Test.**

April 7 **Research Paper Due: Drop Box**

Last day to withdraw from Fall-term classes (April 8)