

Carleton University
Department of English Language and Literature

ENGL 4304A Renaissance Drama

Fall 2013

Tues. 11:35-2:25

SA 506 (Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Dr. David Stymeist

Office: 1819 DT / 1929 DT

Office Phone: TBA

Email: dstymeist@yahoo.ca

Office Hours: TBA, or by appointment.

Course Description

This course is designed to critically examine of a selection of drama from the English Renaissance. This course will include work by Christopher Marlowe, John Webster, Francis Beaumont, and Ben Jonson. These plays will encompass the major dramatic genres of History, Comedy, and Tragedy, as well as a number of sub-genres, such as City Comedy, Satire, Domestic Tragedy, and the Revenge play.

The cultural, political and intellectual contexts of individual plays will be discussed in detail, as well as the social and economic place of the stage in early modern England. There will be an emphasis on the commercial development of drama in the period. The course will also investigate how playwrights represent transgression, femininity, homosexuality, social and economic class differences, and criminality in the period. The practice of drama in the period will be examined through various critical and theoretical methodologies, including Feminist historiography, Queer theory, Cultural Materialism, and New Historicism.

Classes will consist of a combination of lectures and discussion. I expect every student to attend lectures and come prepared to engage in a lively discussion of the plays. As this is a fourth year course, classes will especially emphasize active learning. The more you are willing to put into the class, the more you will get out of it!

Primary Texts

Anonymous. *Arden of Faversham*.

Ben Jonson. *The Alchemist*.

Francis Beaumont. *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*.

Christopher Marlowe. *Edward II*.

John Webster. *The Duchess of Malfi*.

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

Course Requirements

In-Class Performance/Essay	25%
Research Essay	40%
Participation	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. The term test will cover material from the entire course. 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 final exam 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 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. 9, 2012 for the Fall term and March 8, 2013 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>.

CLASS SCHEDULE (Tentative)

Sept. 10	Class Introduction. Cultural Contexts: The Place of the Stage
Sept 17, 24	<i>Edward II</i> (Christopher Marlowe)
Sept. 18	Last day to change courses for fall/winter courses
Sept 24, Oct. 1	<i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> (John Webster)
Oct. 8, 15, 22	Performances; <i>The Alchemist</i> (Ben Jonson)
Oct. 28-Nov. 1	Fall Break, No Classes.
Nov. 5, 12	<i>Arden of Faversham</i> (anon.)
Nov. 12, 19	<i>The Knight of the Burning Pestle</i> (Francis Beaumont)
Nov. 26	Screening of <i>Edward II</i>
Dec. 3	Last Day of Classes; Term Test
Dec. 6	Final Essay Due (drop box)
Dec. 9	Last Day to Withdraw from Fall Classes