

**Winter 2015**  
**Department of English**

**Course and Section No: (Engl. 18. 5304)**  
**A Seminar: Elizabethan and Jacobean Prose Fiction**  
**(time: to be announced)**

**Prerequisite: graduate standing**

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This course is concerned with the earliest English fiction in prose, that which was contemporary with the rise of the English theatre, and with the humanist imitations from continental literature down to the English Civil War in the seventeenth century. Among the genres are Euphuistic morality, travel satire, pastoral romance, and the Eastern beast fable. Their artifice and stylistic self-consciousness raise questions concerning Renaissance tastes and the uses of fiction. There were class differences in the readerships as well, and contemporary circumstances that accounted for the diversity of voices. All of these issues and more will form the bases of discussions and seminar presentations. This is a book production tilt, given the concern with publishers, markets and readerships. But there will be room for other critical concerns, such as the social uses of fiction, sources, emerging styles, and the conventions of genres. It is a course of discovery because this literature has been little attended to before the advent of the Carleton-based Publications of the Barnabe Riche Society, founded in the 1980s. By making many of these texts available again after 400 years in fully edited and modernized editions, this early mode of imaginative writing can now be studied, in effect, for the first time.

The course requirements are straightforward: two seminar presentations and two papers of 6-8 pages in length, at least three on a different works. The seminars are graded as we progress. The two papers are due, the first on the last day of class, the second a week after the last day of class, which is April XX, without exception, please. Each unit will count for 25% of the final grade.

The seminar presentations should address pertinent critical topics clearly and methodically. Delivery style, well-paced and aware of the audience, is important. Make certain that you raise points for discussion, that you are prepared to defend your thesis (within reason!), and that you save some good points for the lively conversations to follow. By implication, this means that all other members of the class should be present at each meeting and prepared to participate in the colloquium. That is the bottom line of any successful seminar.

**Schedule of Readings:**

Jan. X Introduction  
Jan. XX Unfortunate Traveller (Nashe)  
Jan. XX Unfortunate Traveller  
Jan. XX Pandosto (Greene)  
Feb. Pandosto  
Feb. A Margarite of America (Lodge)  
Winter Break  
Feb. A Margarite of America  
Mar. Jack of Newbury (Deloney)

Mar. Jack of Newbury  
Mar. Brusanus, Prince of Hungaria (Riche)  
Mar. Brusanus, Prince of Hungaria (Riche)  
April His Farewell to Military Profession (Riche)  
April His Farewell to Military Profession (Riche)

Regulations: For all official university regulations, deadlines, and statements on plagiarism, see the University Calendar.

Course Work: All seminars and written work must be submitted in order to receive a final grade.

Plagiarism: The University takes plagiarism as a serious offense. Any use of the ideas or texts of others must be cited in the normal academic manner. Of course, all work presented must be your own, and not have been presented in any former course.

Deadlines: Are firm, unless official accommodation is granted by the University Registrar.

Research: Materials from the WWW are to be used with caution, given that little of it is vetted in the usual ways pertaining to academic research, such as it is to be found in published and academic journals. Generally it is to be avoided. Academic journals on line, of course, are fine.

Early Feedback: If you are concerned about early feedback, be sure to sign up for a seminar presentation early in the course.

Religious Observance: Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department.

Pregnancy: For pregnancy, students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Honeymoons: Leaves for up to 24 hours will be granted upon unanimous approval of the class. May include charivarees.