**ENGL 2302B:** *Literatures and Cultures 1500-1700*

**Prerequisites:** *second-year standing or permission of the department.*

**Instructor:** *Grant Williams*
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<mark>*** *This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change. A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.* ****</mark>

**Course description:**
To introduce students to this period of English literature (1500-1700), the course will examine closely two canonical plays and selections from two canonical epic poems along with a selection of lyric poetry. The course will also explore other early modern documents that deal with death and love, the twin-focus for the written assignments and the main project. In its exploration of early modern texts, it will gravitate toward visual, literary, and rhetorical imagery. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which writers use verbal pictures to communicate the passion, power, and perils of death and love—two major cultural ideas that absorbed the attention of the Church, the Court, and the thriving theatre. The overarching goal of the course is for students to encounter and to understand a selection of early modern literature and its cultural contexts, so that they can apply their understanding to their own critical and creative project—or exam—by the course's end.

**Learning Outcomes:**
*By the end of the course all students will be able to:*
1. read and interpret early modern texts written by a variety of authors
2. identify, define, and analyze early modern literary form and language
3. understand the dynamic relationship between early modern literature and culture across a period of significant historical changes
4. understand how English literary history connects with continental traditions

**Texts:** *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature, Volume 2: The Renaissance and Early Seventeenth Century*, third edition

**Evaluation:** short in-class writing assignments, midterm, either capstone project or final exam