English 201 - Studies in Early British Literature: 
Theater and Theatricality

Spring 2016, Oddfellows 105B, MW 3-4:15

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Text
The Norton Anthology of English Literature, ed. Greenblatt, Volume 1, 9th ed.

Course Description
This course will introduce you to some of the richest and most turbulent works in all English literature, written during a period – from the 1570s to the 1670s – when the glory of the Elizabethan court gave way to the tumult of civil war, to regicide and the institution of a commonwealth, and eventually to the restoration of the monarchy. It was a century of intense political and religious ferment, of increasing literary and social mobility and a corresponding impulse to demand political representation, and of a backlash of social conservatism and even greater iconoclasm. It was also – even past the closing of public playhouses in 1642 – an age of great theater, not only in drama but also in poetry, prose, and everyday life. Our studies will be punctuated by three great plays, two from the Elizabethan and one from the Jacobean era, and will conclude with the study of a great “dramatic” work not intended for performance, Milton’s epic Paradise Lost.
**Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete English 201 will:

- Describe early British literature in its historical contexts;
- Differentiate between periods of literary history including the Renaissance, Restoration, Elizabethan, and Jacobean periods in England;
- Identify how literature and culture are interrelated;
- Continue to develop and refine skills as close readers of literary texts;
- Continue to develop interpretive arguments about literary texts.

**Requirements and Policies**

This course will combine lecture with discussion. To help produce productive conversations in a class this size, there will be regular, required Sakai posts and in-class quizzes, which will be graded on a 10-point scale. Quizzes will be graded in the usual fashion. Sakai posts that are submitted on time, demonstrate a reasonably thorough response to the prompt, and which you are prepared to reference in class will receive full credit; less than full effort and late responses will receive partial or no credit. It is imperative, therefore, that you attend class regularly and read all texts before the dates for which they are assigned. **Quizzes must be made up within one week of the original assignment, or receive a grade of zero.**

**Grading Policy**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:*  
10% Participation**  
15% Quizzes (2) and Sakai Posts (10)  
30% Close Reading Exercises (3)  
15% Midterm Exam 1  
15% Midterm Exam 2  
15% Final Exam

*IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE IN THIS COURSE, YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL CLOSE-READING EXERCISES AND EXAMS

**Your participation grade will be determined by the following criteria:  
• A for class participation is awarded when students regularly initiate discussion. This means coming to class thoroughly familiar with the assigned readings and prepared to raise questions, open discussion, and actively engage other students in discussion. Students who are self-starters and do not rely on the instructor’s questions to set the agenda for our discussions will earn an A for participation.**
• **B** for class participation is awarded to students who participate regularly and productively in class discussion, who are prepared, and who are willing to engage.

• **C** for class participation is awarded to those who participate on a regular but less frequent basis than the B student. “C” discussants will be prepared for class, but their contributions will indicate that less thought has been given to the assigned material.

• **F** for class participation is given to those who contribute infrequently to discussion and/or whose absences are frequent.

**Attendance Policy**
I allow up three unexcused absences without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will result in an APR, and incur a 5-point deduction from your next exam. As above, frequent absences will also affect your participation grade. Absences will be excused only with written proof of cause, with the following exceptions.

*To prevent the spread of influenza, you will not be penalized if you miss class for symptoms of flu: fever along with headache/body aches, cough, and/or sore throat.* If you need to miss class due to a religious observance, please let me know in advance so that we can make arrangements to cover materials from that day. See [http://sites.allegheny.edu/religiouslife/religious-holy-days/](http://sites.allegheny.edu/religiouslife/religious-holy-days/).

**Late Work**
The due dates of all assignments are posted in bold below. Late written work will be penalized by a third of a letter grade per day (e.g. B- to C+).

**Disability Services**
Students with disabilities who believe they need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 332-2898. Disability Services is part of the Learning Commons and is located in Pelletier Library. Please contact that office as soon as possible to insure that such accommodations are implemented expeditiously.

**A Note on Extenuating Circumstances**
If you should find yourself in difficult circumstances that significantly interfere with your ability to prepare for this class and to complete assignments, please inform me immediately so that we can work something out together. Do not wait until the last day of class to ask for exceptions to what is stated in this syllabus. In such a situation, you may also find it helpful to contact the campus Counseling Center (332-4368) in 304 Reis Hall, which is open from 8-5 but also has a 24 hour hotline.

**Academic Integrity**
*Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class.* Plagiarism includes direct or indirect use of any words or ideas not your own, including internet sources, without proper acknowledgment; it is a crime and may result in failure of the assignment or course. In addition, all cases of plagiarism are to be reported to the Honor Committee. Please read the Honor Code in the College Handbook, or at [http://sites.allegheny.edu/deanofstudents/student-conduct-system/academic-conduct/honor-code/](http://sites.allegheny.edu/deanofstudents/student-conduct-system/academic-conduct/honor-code/).
Course Schedule

N.B.: The following schedule is subject to change. Please pay attention to announcements regarding any changes in course readings and assignments.

The Renaissance / Early Modern Period: Marlowe’s Dr. Faustus

M 1/18 - No Class; MLK Day


M 1/25 - “The Sixteenth Century,” 531-561; Christopher Marlowe, 1106-1107; Marlow, Dr. Faustus. Sakai Post 1 due.

W 1/27 - Faustus, cont.

M 2/1 - Faustus, cont. Close Reading 1 due.

The Early Tudor and Elizabethan Court: The Sonnet

W 2/3 - Thomas Hoby’s translation of Castiglione’s The Courtier, 704-720.


*M 2/22 – Midterm Exam 1: Faustus - Shakespeare’s Sonnets*

Elizabethan Comedy: Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night

W 2/24 - Shakespeare, Twelfth Night; Nunn’s Twelfth Night (Sakai).

M 2/29 - Twelfth Night, cont.

W 3/2 - Twelfth Night, cont. Close Reading 2 due.
Early Seventeenth-Century Poetry

M 3/7 - “The Early Seventeenth Century,” 1341-1367; John Donne, 1370-1372 and select poems. Sakai Post 4 due.

W 3/9 - George Herbert, 1705-1707 and select poems. Midterm Exam 2 study guide distributed.


*W 3/16 - Midterm Exam 2*

M 3/21 - W 3/23: No Class; Spring Break

Jacobean Tragedy: Webster’s The Duchess of Malfi

M 3/28 - John Webster, 1571-1572; The Duchess of Malfi. Sakai Post 6 due.

W 3/30 - Duchess, cont.

M 4/4 - Duchess, cont. Close Reading 3 due.

T 4/5 – Gator Day

W 4/6 - Catch-up day


W 4/13 - PL, Book II. Sakai Post 8 due.

M 4/18 - PL, Book III. Sakai Post 9 due.

W 4/20 - PL, Book IV

M 4/25 - PL, Book IX and Areopagitica. Sakai Post 10 due.

W 4/27 - PL, Book XII

M 5/2 - Catch-up, review, take-home final distributed

**T 5/10 (Exam Code L) – TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM due ON SAKAI AT 10 PM. NO EXCEPTIONS**