

English 340-01: Restoration Drama

CRN 25329

Professor J. Brady
Palmer 305 (office)
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Spring, 2015
TR 9:30-10:45
Palmer 211

This course explores English literature after the restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660. Topics include: the reopening of the theaters; the introduction of the actress to the stage in lieu of the boy actors who had played women's roles in the Renaissance; the flourishing of drama after the interregnum; the shift from satiric or libertine comedy to sentimental comedy. Our focus will be on plays by influential and popular dramatists, including Etherege, Dryden, Otway, Shadwell, Cibber, Vanbrugh, Congreve, and Farquhar and on the unique conditions of the theater they wrote for between 1675 and 1707. We will examine royal sponsorship of the theater of this period and the dissolute atmosphere of Charles II's court, as depicted in verse satires by the king's godson, the Earl of Rochester.

Texts:

David Womersley, ed. *Restoration Drama: An Anthology* (Blackwell)
John Dryden, *Marriage A la Mode*, ed. David Crane (New Mermaids)
Thomas Shadwell, *The Humorist* (scanned)
Thomas Otway, *The Soldiers' Fortune* (scanned)

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00-12:00; MWF 10:00-10:50; or by appointment throughout the week.

Attendance Policy:

This class will be run as a combination of lecture, seminar, and discussion. Late arrivals to class will be counted as absences and any student who misses or comes late to class more than **four** times in the semester will receive a zero in class participation and attendance and may be asked to withdraw from the course.

Method of Evaluation:

40% Two critical essays of 5 pages each
30% Research essay of 8 pages

- 10% Participation in the class, attendance, preparation for class, and willingness to engage with the primary material and the scholarship in the field. You are required to read the assigned criticism or supplementary primary texts in conjunction with each week's principal reading.
- 10% In-class presentation on one of the plays.
- 10% An essay of 3 pages on an aspect of theatrical performance or staging that interests you or on an actor or actress of the period, with illustrations from the plays we have studied. This essay must be submitted by April 8th. at the latest.

Schedule:

January 15	Introductory Remarks
Jan. 20, 22, 27	Etherege's <i>The Man of Mode</i> (1676)
January 29	Rochester's poems (handouts)
February 3, 5, 10	Dryden's <i>Marriage A la Mode</i> (1673)
February 12, 17	Shadwell's <i>The Humorist</i> (1671)
Feb. 19	Dryden's satire "MacFlecknoe"
Friday, February 20	First essay due, 5 pages
February 24, 26	Dryden's <i>All for Love</i> (1677)
March 3, 5	Otway's <i>Venice Preserved</i> (1682)
SPRING BREAK	
March 17, 19	Otway's <i>The Soldiers' Fortune</i> (1680)
Friday, March 20	Second essay due, 5 pages
March 24, 26	Cibber's <i>Love's Last Shift</i> (1696)
March 31	The actress

EASTER RECESS

April 7, 9

Vanbrugh's *The Relapse* (1696)

April 14, 16, 21

Congreve's *The Way of the World* (1700)

April 23

Dryden, "To my dear friend, Mr. Congreve"

April 28, 30

Farquhar's *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1707)