

English 265-03: Seventeenth-Century British Comedy

CRN 16834

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

Reading List:

William Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Folger edition)
John Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed or the Woman's Prize* (Revels edition)
Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist and Other Plays* (Oxford World Classics)
Brian Corman, ed., *Broadview Anthology of Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy* (Broadview Press, paperback edition)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30-9:30 a.m.; Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00-noon,
or by appointment over the week.

Course Description:

This course treats British comedy from the Renaissance and Restoration periods, including plays by Shakespeare, Jonson, and Fletcher, the most influential of the early modern playwrights, and, from the later period, after the theaters reopened in the early 1660s, comedies by Dryden, Wycherley, Etherege, Aphra Behn, and Congreve. We will consider the various kinds of comedy developed over the seventeenth century; the influence of the earlier playwrights on their successors; and aspects of staging, production, casting, and acting, including the significant introduction of the professional actress in lieu of the boy actors who had played women's roles, in the 1660s. We will have as a special resource Nick Hutchison, an English actor and director, who will be visiting class in October, as well as a symposium on Friday, October 23rd., on Shakespearean comedy, which will include presentations by Nick Hutchison and scholar Fiona Ritchie, speaking on Shakespeare and women in the eighteenth century.

This course carries both F2 (Writing Intensive) and F4 (Literary Texts) credit.

Attendance Policy:

Late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence and any student who misses or comes late to class more than **three** times in the semester will be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a zero for class participation. Please see the English department policies on attendance, deadlines, intellectual honesty and plagiarism, attached to this document as an appendix, below.

Schedule:

August 27	Introductory remarks
September 1, 3	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
September 8, 10	<i>The Tamer Tamed</i>
September 15, 17, 22	<i>Epicene, or The Silent Woman</i>
Friday, September 18	First Essay Due
September 24, 29, Oct. 1	<i>Bartholomew Fair</i>
Monday, October 5	Second Essay Due
October 6, 8	The Restoration theater, the actress on stage
October 13, 15, 22	<i>The Man of Mode</i>
Friday, October 23	Comedy Symposium at McCoy Theater. 2:00-5:00 p.m. (mandatory attendance)
October 27	No class
October 29, Nov. 3, 5	<i>Marriage a la Mode</i>
Monday, November 9	Third Essay Due
November 10, 12, 17	<i>The Country Wife</i>
November 19, 24	<i>The Rover</i>
December 1, 3, 8	<i>The Way of the World</i>

Method of Evaluation:

Three formal essays, 4 pages each*	60%
In-class grade	20%
Final exam	20%

* All late essays will be penalized by at least a letter grade.

