

English 323: Renaissance Drama

CRN 28388

Professor J. Brady
Palmer 306 (office)
843-3906 (office phone)

Spring, 2008
TR: 9:30-10:45
Palmer 207

Texts:

David Bevington, ed. *English Renaissance Drama* (Norton, cloth)
William Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Folger Shakespeare)
William Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida* (Folger Shakespeare)
Philip Massinger, *The Roman Actor* (RSC Classics)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday: 1:00-2:00
Tuesday, Thursday: 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course explores Renaissance drama from principally the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. Its focus will be on representative major authors, in particular Marlowe, Jonson, Shakespeare and Fletcher, and on major works by other influential dramatists, including Marston, Massinger, and Webster. We will read tragedies, comedies, and satire of the period.

Evaluation:

- 20% You are required to write an essay of 1500 words on Marlowe's drama. See schedule below for due date.
- 40% You are required to write essays of 1500 words each on **two** of the following three units of the course (Ben Jonson; Fletcher and Shakespeare; Webster or Massinger)
- 20% In-class essay exam on satire by Marston and Shakespeare
- 20% Participation in the seminar, including attendance, preparation for class, and willingness to engage with the primary reading and the scholarship in the field. Students who miss *four* classes will be asked to leave the course and will be given an automatic F in this component of the course.

Schedule:

Christopher Marlowe

January 15, 17 *Tamburlaine the Great, Part 1*(1587-88)

January 22, 24 *The Jew of Malta* (1589-90)

Monday, Jan. 28 **Marlowe paper due, by noon**

Renaissance Satire

Jan. 29 Renaissance satire; selected readings from George Puttenham's *The Arte of English Poesie* and Alvin Kernan's *The Cankered Muse* (handout)

Jan. 31, February 5 *The Malcontent* (1602-04)

Feb. 7, 12, 14 *Troilus and Cressida* (1609)

Tuesday, Feb. 19 **In-class essay on Renaissance satire**

Ben Jonson

February 21, 26, 28 *Epicene* (1609)

Spring Recess

March 11, 13, 18 *Bartholomew Fair* (1614)

Wednesday, March 19 **Jonson essay due, by noon**

Easter Recess

John Fletcher

March 25 *The Taming of the Shrew*

March 27, April 1 *The Woman's Prize, or The Tamer Tamed* (1611)

April 3, 8, 10 *The Maid's Tragedy* (1610-11)

Friday, April 11

Fletcher paper due, by noon

Webster and Massinger

April 15, 17

The Duchess of Malfi (1613-14)

April 22, 24

The Roman Actor (1626)

Saturday, April 26

Webster or Massinger essay due, by noon

