English 323: Renaissance Drama

CRN 27582
Professor J. Brady
Palmer 306 (office)
843-3906 (office phone)

Spring, 2007
TR: 9:30-10:45
Palmer 207

Texts:

Christopher Marlowe, The Jew of Malta (1589-90)
Christopher Marlowe, Edward II (1591-93)
John Marston, The Malcontent (1602-04)
William Shakespeare, Troilus and Cressida (1603)
Ben Jonson, Epicene (1609)
Ben Jonson, Bartholomew Fair (1614)
William Shakespeare, The Taming of the Shrew (1594)
John Fletcher, The Woman’s Prize (1611)
Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, The Maid’s Tragedy (1610-11)
John Webster, The Duchess of Malfi (1613-14)
John Ford, ‘Tis Pity She’s A Whore (1629-33)

Most of these plays are available in a single omnibus edition, English Renaissance Drama, edited by David Bevington, et al., and published by Norton in cloth. You are welcome to read these plays in other editions you may own, if you prefer. I have not ordered either of the two Shakespeare plays, assuming that you probably already own either the Riverside or Norton editions of Shakespeare.

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 1:00-2:30, or by appointment through the week

Course Description:

This course explores Renaissance drama, principally from the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. Its focus will be on representative major authors, in particular Marlowe, Jonson, Shakespeare, and Fletcher, and on major plays by other important and influential dramatists, including Marston, Webster, and Ford. We will read tragedies, comedies, and satire of the period, single-authored drama and plays written either in collaboration or as adaptations of one dramatist’s work by another playwright.
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 1500-2000 words each on two of the following three units of the course (Ben Jonson; Fletcher; Webster/Ford). See schedule below for due dates.

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 three classes will be asked to leave the course and will be given an automatic F in this component of the course.

20% Midterm in-class essay examination on Marston and Shakespeare's satires.

Schedule:

January 16, 18
Christopher Marlowe
The Jew of Malta

January 23, 25
Edward II; selections from Alan Bray

Monday January 29
Paper due, by noon

Renaissance Satire

January 30
Renaissance satire; selected readings from George Puttenham's The Arte of English Poesie and Alvin Kernan's The Cankered Muse

February 1, 6
The Malcontent

February 8, 13, 15
Troilus and Cressida

February 20
Midterm exam
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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Play(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 22, 27</td>
<td>Ben Jonson</td>
<td><em>Epicene</em></td>
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<td>March 1, 6, 8</td>
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<td><em>Bartholomew Fair</em></td>
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<td>Friday March 9</td>
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<td>Paper due, by noon</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Fletcher</td>
<td><em>The Taming of the Shrew</em></td>
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<td>March 22, 27</td>
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<td><em>The Woman's Prize</em></td>
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<td>March 29, April 3, 10</td>
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<td><em>The Maid's Tragedy</em></td>
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<td>Wednesday April 11</td>
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<td>Paper due, by noon</td>
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<td>April 12, 17, 19</td>
<td>Webster and Ford</td>
<td><em>The Duchess of Malfi</em></td>
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<td>April 24, 26</td>
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<td><em>'Tis Pity She's A Whore</em></td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 1</td>
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<td>Paper due, by 3:00 p.m.</td>
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