The Renaissance in England
English 4009
Fall 2010
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:50 PM

Prof. Frances M. Bothwell del Toro

Course Catalog Description: Sixteenth-century poetry, prose, drama (excluding Shakespeare), selected to illustrate the cultural and intellectual impact of the Renaissance in England.

This course will explore the literature of one of the richest periods in English literature, including non-Shakespearean drama, poetry and prose. This is the time of Shakespeare, but also of some of the greatest writers in the English language. Among the authors to be read are Spencer, Sidney, Jonson, Middleton, Marlowe, Webster, Ford, Beaumont and Fletcher. Some surprising texts by women, usually ignored, will enrich our understanding of the time in which Shakespeare lived and worked. Connections to the historical events, the Renaissance in Europe, and the Reformation will figure largely in the discussion of the period and the texts.

Objectives: The course will be a study of the various forms of poetry, prose and drama that accompanied the flowering of the Renaissance in England. By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Have become familiar with and know the historical background of the English Renaissance, the Tudor and Stuart regimes and the socio-political changes that created the climate for the literature of the period.

2. Understand the philosophical underpinnings of the Renaissance and the Reformation, and their lasting social, economic and literary effects.

3. Have read extensively in the poetry, prose and drama of the period.
4. Be able to analyze poetry and drama from the Renaissance.

5. Be able to discuss themes, conventions, motifs, image types and patterns, as well as formally dissect poetry.

6. Studied in depth several important works, and have carried out research on the subject of at least one.

7. Become familiar with the most important sources, both conventional and electronic in the research of the period.

8. Have written essays on subjects related to the course.

Texts (may vary): Most of the poetry will be found in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol 1 B.*

The plays and other texts we will read will be from the internet. I will also place a paper copy in reserve in the Seminar Room for those who wish to photocopy them and a CD for those who want to download them to a flash drive or their computer.

http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/spatr10.txt
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2130/2130.txt

Webster, John. *The Duchess of Malfi*. Gutenberg Project 
http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext00/malfi10.txt

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15272/15272-8.txt
*There are selections from the Faerie Queene in the NAEL as well. Other selections may be distributed in class.*


Anonymous. *Arden of Faversham*. OXFORD TEXT ARCHIVE

**Evaluation of students for grade:** Relative weight of grades will be: 4 essays, 20% each; class participation and oral report, 20% or Relative weight of grades will be: 3 essays, 20% each; class participation and oral report, 20%; final exam, 20%..

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Los estudiantes que reciben servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el profesor al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomedaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el profesor. (Ley 51)

**Grading System** A, B, C, D, or F

**Resources and Equipment Required:** A TV/VCR or TV/DVD will be used for a number of class sessions.

**Teaching Strategies:** Lecture 40%, and discussion and class projects 40%, films 20%. (may vary according to individual teachers)

There is a site on Blackboard.com, the UPR version at http://virtual.uprrp.edu which has copies of the syllabus, course description, other bibliographies and links to Internet sites. Recently it
has not worked consistently so I will update you on other internet resources and see if I can move the course to a different website.

CLASS TOPICS

I. England in transition: from the high middle ages to the Renaissance: changes in political landscape and culture.
   A. The War of the Roses and its aftermath. The rise of the “new man” and the dismantling of feudalism.
   B. The accidental protestantism of Henry VIII.
   C. Humanism and religion.
   D. Stuart regime. Transition to the baroque and civil war.

   (4.5 hours)

II. A flowering of the arts: poetry, prose and drama in Elizabethan times.
   A. Thomas More and *Utopia*. Connection with European humanism. (4.5 hours)
   B. English prosody: a comparative approach. (1.5 hours)
   C. The lyric of the Renaissance
      1. The sonnet: introduction, adaptation and acceptance: Petrarchean motifs, English approaches. The sonnet sequences of Sidney, Spenser, Drayton and Shakespeare. (6 hours)
   D. Romance and symbolism: *the Faerie Queene*. (6 hours)
   E. Elizabethan and Stuart Drama:
      1. Comedy: Dekker, Thomas. *The Shoemaker's Holiday*. (3 hours)
      2. Tragedy and the revenge play: Kyd, Thomas. *The Spanish Tragedy*. (3 hours)

Every Man in his Humour. (3 hours)

Sir Thomas More, by Holbein

Holbenin’s portrait of Henry VIII
Course requirements:

1. Students will be expected to attend classes regularly. Class attendance and participation count as an exam grade. Each day a list will be circulated for you to sign. Make certain that you do, even if you are late. NO CELL PHONES OR OTHER NOISE-MAKING ELECTRONICS IN THE CLASS. Please switch them off when you come into the classroom.

2. One final exam will be given, which will be administered on the day of the final. It will be primarily made up of essay questions.

3. Students will write three short papers (3-5 pages long) on a choice of topics to be assigned. These papers will **not** be primarily research papers, but essays in which students develop their own ideas and interpretations. You are, however, expected to annotate properly any sources you do use. Plagiarism means an automatic F grade. Annotation style should be MLA (Modern Language Association). The *MLA Handbook* can be found in the Richardson Seminar Room, or you can buy a copy of your own. If you are an English major, the latter is strongly recommended.

4. Students will give an oral report (15-20 minutes or so) on a topic from a list which I will circulate soon. Other short assignments may be given as well.

5. Students will be expected to keep up with the readings, look up words and terms they don't understand, use dictionaries, and generally appear to be alert, intelligent human beings. Should I find that I am alone in having read a text, a reading quiz will be given as a corrective for your negligence. You don't like answering reading quizzes, I hate making them up and correcting them. Let's avoid the whole thing by **keeping up with the readings**.
6. Students should bring to class some sheets of "theme" or binder paper (8 ½ by 11").

7. I will show several videos and expect everyone to attend those sessions like a regular class. If you miss a video, you must make it up by watching it at home.

Final exam: On the day assigned by the Registrar in the official calendar. All assignments and papers must be in by that date or earlier.

GRADES: Relative weight of grades will be: 3 essays, 20% each; class participation and oral report, 20%; final exam, 20%.

Office Hours

My name is Dr. Frances M. Bothwell del Toro, known as Prof. Bothwell. My office is in Pedreira 2A. My office hours this semester will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:15 PM and Saturdays from noon to 2 PM or by appointment. If you cannot come during my office hours and need to see me, please make an appointment.

My email is fmbothwell@gmail.com. I try to answer emails within two days of receiving it. But if I don’t, you should send a second copy.

A number of Reserve books, articles and works will be placed, as needed, in the Richardson Seminar Room, but users of the online site will have other sources (which I cannot duplicate) for their use as well (if it works). Blackboard has become unstable recently, so I will try to find an alternative to it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This bibliography is by no means complete. It is meant to provide a starting point for your research. It provides a list of some of the materials available in the main library and in our own Richardson Seminar Room, or my reserve, and focuses on very recent materials. Some items you may have to access through interlibrary loan. If you need something from another institution, make sure that you order it with plenty of time. The Interlibrary Loan office in the library is very good, but has only a very limited staff, and books take up to six weeks to arrive. Articles may come sooner. Many excellent books are available through such online booksellers as Barnes and Noble, Amazon.cin, Abebooks, Scholar’s Bookshelf, and others.. All provide excellent service, and several do not charge shipping. Local booksellers, especially Borders, have some good things for those who look. If you are serious about this period and Shakespeare, you might wish to start building your professional library. I will provide some books in my reserve. Please take good care of them. Some are brand new.

I strongly urge you to use the UPR’s online data banks, which can provide full text from many periodical publications. The web address is http://biblioteca.uprrp.edu/ Here you will find excellent sources such as Jstor, Project Muse and the MLA Bibliography. Explore the databanks, which can even be accessed from home.


*Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies*. University of Toronto. [http://www.crrs.ca/](http://www.crrs.ca/)


*Early Modern English Dictionaries Database*. University of Toronto. [http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/english/emed/emedd.html](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/english/emed/emedd.html)


Jonson, Ben. *Every Man in his Humour*. Gutenberg Project [http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/emi1h10a.txt](http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/emi1h10a.txt)


  http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext97/tmbn110.txt

Marlowe, Christopher, Tamburlaine the Great, Part 2.  Gutenberg Project.  
  http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/1094


  http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff/theater/sources.html


