

## **English 321: Writers of the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries**

Dr. John Freeman  
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Office Hours: M W 11:00-11:45 a.m.  
                  T R 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
                          and by arrangement

### **Required Text:**

The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Seventh edition. Volume IB).

### **Course Goals:**

This is a survey course that will provide students with some familiarity with many of the best writers in these two centuries. Genres to be considered will include poetry, drama, and prose. As much as possible, I will stress the historical backdrop to these works, the cultural, religious, literary, and political forces that shaped them. Some questions we will consider will include:

What was the effect of the court and city on English literature?

Who were the Humanists, and how did they influence literary production and English social life?

What effects did the Reformation and religious controversy have on English literature and society?

What views concerning literary theory and the role of the artist prevailed in these centuries?

What were the effects of changes from old (feudal) modes of economy and social order to new (capitalist) modes of economy and social order?

### **Writing Requirements:**

- 1) In-class work, study questions, quizzes (25%)
- 2) Midterm exam (10%)
- 3) Essay #1 (25%)
- 4) Research Essay #2 (30%)
- 4) Final exam (10%)

## **Attendance Policy**

This class demands your most careful participation and diligence. Each class represents a full week's worth of reading assignments, so you will have to be diligent in preparing the readings from week to week. In-class work and quizzes cannot be turned in late nor will out-of-class assignments be accepted after they are due. No e-mail submissions. Quizzes are often based on the lecture for the preceding class. You should come to class having prepared that week's reading. Out of respect for your classmates and instructor, students should come to class on time and remain for the whole period.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

Students are expected to turn in their own work, with proper attribution of others' ideas (through proper use of quotation, page referencing, and end-notes). Any work falling short of these standards will receive an "F."

## **Syllabus for English 321 (Revised)**

1/23 Group Presentations

### **Fourth Week**

1/26 "The Sixteenth Century: 1485-1603" (469-83)

1/28 "Sir Thomas More" (503-23)

1/30 "Sir Thomas Wyatt" (525-26); "The Long Love" (527); "Whoso list to hunt" (527)

### **Fifth Week**

2/2 Sir Thomas Wyatt: "My Galley" (528); "They Flee from Me" (529); and  
"Mine own John Pains" (535)

2/4 "Roger Ascham" (563-69); "Henry Howard" (569-70); "Th'Assyrian King" (572);  
"So Cruel Prison" (572); and "Wyatt Resteth Here" (574)

2/6 "Literature of the Sacred" (538-63)

### **Sixth Week**

2/9 "Sir Thomas Hoby" (translation of Castiglione's The Courtier) (577-93)

2/11 "Queen Elizabeth" (593-600)  
"Isabella Whitney" (606-14)

2/13 "Edmund Spenser" (614-16); *The Faerie Queene* ("Introduction," 622-27)

### **Seventh Week**

2/16 *The Faerie Queene* (628-52)

2/18 *The Faerie Queene* (652-74).

\*2/20 *The Faerie Queene* (674-98). **Midterm due.**

### **Eighth Week**

2/23 *The Faerie Queene* (698-721)

2/25 *The Faerie Queene* (721-50)

2/27 *The Faerie Queene* (750-83)

### **Spring Break (March 1-7)**

3/8 *Doctor Faustus* (990-1001)

3/10 *Doctor Faustus* (1001-23)

3/12 Group Presentation

### **Ninth Week**

3/15 "The Early Seventeenth Century: 1603-1660" (1209-35)

3/17 Donne: "The Flea" (1236); "Song" (1237); "The Sun Rising" (1239).

3/19 "The Canonization" (1240); "Air and Angels" (1243); "An Anatomie" (1263-8)

### **Tenth Week**

3/22 Amelia Lanyer (1281-92)  
Mary Wroth (1422-32)

3/24 *Duchess of Malfi*\_(Act 1)

3/26 *Duchess of Malfi*\_(Act 2)

### **Eleventh Week**

3/29 *Duchess of Malfi*\_(Act 3)

3/31 *Duchess of Malfi*\_(Act 4)

4/2 *Duchess of Malfi*\_(Act 5)

### **Twelfth Week**

4/5 "The Science of Self and World" (1528-48)

4/7 George Herbert (1595-1633)

4/9 No class.

### **Thirteenth Week**

4/12 Robert Herrick (1633-33); Sir John Suckling (1629-70).

4/14 Richard Lovelace (1618-74); Katherine Philips (1642-84)

4/16 Andrew Marvell ("A Dialogue"); "To His Coy Mistress" (1681); "An Horatian Ode" (1681).

Final Exam: Monday, April 19 11:00 - 12:50 p.m.