English 330 (A) Fall 1991
Professor: Brenda Cantar

Required Texts:


Wright, Louis B. & Virginia LaMar, eds. *Shakespeare's Sonnets*. Folger Library.

Course Description

A study of the prose and poetry of the sixteenth-century in the context of specific cultural concerns: Humanist and Protestant self-representation, the social uses of rhetoric, the relationship between subjectivity, gender and power, the role of the Tudor and Elizabethan courts, the problems of literary authority.

Structure

The course will consist of two lectures and a seminar discussion led by students on assigned topics. There will be one essay (2000-2500 words/8-10 typewritten pgs.) which might arise from your seminar research, due Nov. 25th., and a final examination.

Please Note: Unless an extension is granted for sufficient reason (and a medical certificate produced), a penalty of 1% per day will be levied on late papers.

Assignments and Grading

1. Seminar ........................................... 20%
2. Formal essay ..................................... 30%
3. Participation ..................................... 10%
4. Final examination ................................. 40%
Reading List

Week 1  
(Sept. 9-13)  
General introduction:  
The Court and its Poets  
The poetry of Sir Thomas Wyatt (English Sixteenth-Century Verse)

Week 2  
(Sept. 16-20)  
The sonnets of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (ESCV)

Week 3  
(Sept. 23-27)  
Thomas More's Utopia

Week 4  
(Sept. 30-Oct. 4)  
Problems of Literary Authority  
Sidney's Defence of Poetry and Gascoigne's "Certain notes of Instruction concerning the making of verse or ryme in English" (ESCV, p. 317)

Week 5 & 6  
(Oct. 7-18)  
"The New Poet" Edmund Spenser, from "The Shepherd's Calender" in Edmund Spenser's Poetry

Week 7  
(Oct. 21-25)  
The Sonnet Sequences: Sidney's "Astrophil and Stella" and Spenser's "Amoretti" (ESCV)

Week 8  
(Oct. 28-Nov. 1)  
Pastoral pleasures  
The lyrics of Christopher Marlowe and Sir Walter Ralegh (ESCV)

Week 9  
(Nov. 4-8)  
Representing Sexuality:  
Marlowe's "Hero and Leander" (ESCV) and Shakespeare's "Venus and Adonis" (Handout or in any Complete Shakespeare)

Week 10  
(Nov. 11-15)  
Sites and Dislocations: Elizabethan Prose Fiction  
Sidney, The Old Arcadia

Week 11  
(Nov. 18-22)  
Robert Greene, Pandosto and Thomas Nashe, The Unfortunate Traveller

Week 12  
(Nov. 25-29)  
"Two Loves I Have"  
Shakespeare's Sonnets

Week 13  
(Dec. 2-6)  
"And the Women, what do the Women say?"  
Margaret Tyler, Mary Sidney, Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I (Handout)
English 330 A

Selected Bibliography

This list is by no means exhaustive or prescriptive. It is designed primarily as a "starter package" to stimulate your own ideas and research.

General Cultural and Historical Background

Burckhardt, Jacob. *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (1944)


Literary Studies

Mainly the works which have been called the New Historicism to give you an idea of the latest concerns in Renaissance studies.

Ferguson, Margaret W., Maureen Quilligan and Nancy Walker, eds. *Rewriting the Renaissance: The Discourse of Sexual Difference in Early Modern Europe* (1986)


Parker, Patricia and David Quint, eds. * Literary Theory/Renaissance Texts* (1986)


Periodicals

*English Literary History*
*English Literary Renaissance*
*Renaissance and Reformation*
*Renaissance Quarterly*
*Representations*