English 330 (A) Elizabethan Literature I

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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 one-hour lectures and two twenty-minute seminar presentations by students on selected topics and issues. There will be one essay (2000-2500 words, 8-10 typewritten pgs.) which--ideally--will 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 Presentation .................. 20%
2. Formal essay .......................... 40%
3. Final examination ...................... 40%

Required Texts


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

Photocopied Material available at Kinko's

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Third edition)
Reading List

Week 1
General introduction & Historical Background. Excerpts from Hall, "The Triumphant Reign of Henry the Eighth"; Harrison, from The Description of England (1587); Stow, from A Survey of London (1598) (Kinko’s)

Week 2
The Tudor Court and its Poets, Englishing Petrarch:
Sir Thomas Wyatt, the Elder and Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey in (English Sixteenth-Century Verse)

Week 3
Humanism and Thomas More’s Utopia

Week 4
Elizabeth I and the Creation of a National Culture: Castiglione, The Courtier, Book IV, trans. Hoby, Roger Ascham, from The Schoolmaster (Kinko’s), Sidney’s Defence of Poetry

Week 5
Poetic Theory/Inward Experience: Sidney’s "Astrophil and Stella"

Week 6

Week 7
Representing Sexuality: Elizabethan Erotic Narrative Poetry:
Marlowe’s "Hero and Leander" (ESCV) and Shakespeare’s "Venus and Adonis" (Kinko’s)

Week 8
"If I could write the beauty of your eyes": Shakespeare’s Sonnets

Week 9
"Vagrant" Writing: Elizabethan Popular Fiction:
Romance: Robert Greene, Pandosto; "A Fantastical Treatise": Thomas Nashe, The Unfortunate Traveller

Week 10
Prose Fiction Cont’d. Middle-class fiction: Thomas Deloney, Jack of Newbury

Week 11
"And the Women, what do the Women say?"
Margaret Tyler, Mary Sidney, Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I (Kinko’s)

Week 12
"The Woman’s Sharp Revenge": Extracts from the Homily on Marriage; and Jane Anger her Protection for Women (Kinko’s)
Review and General discussion
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 for seminars and essay.

**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. There are many books and articles on single authors. Be sure to select the most recent publications (last ten or fifteen years or so).

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*
*Sixteenth Century Studies*