English 330 (A)
Sixteenth Century Literature I

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Office: Hagey Hall 267. Tel. ext. 3361
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs. 11.30am. to 1pm. (or by appointment)

Course Description
A survey of the major prose and poetry of the sixteenth-century against the background of historical and cultural concerns: Humanist and Protestant self-representation; the relationship between subjectivity, class, gender and power; the role of the Tudor and Elizabethan courts in the production of culture; and the problems of literary authority.

Structure
The course will consist of two one-hour lectures per week, and two twenty-minute seminar presentations by students on selected topics, texts, and issues, followed by class discussion. Seminar notes and preliminary bibliography are to be handed in for comments, suggestions, and grades. There will be one major research essay (2000-2500 words, 8-10 typewritten pgs.) which--ideally--will arise from your preliminary seminar research, due Nov. 25th, and a final examination.

Please Note: Essays must be handed in on the due date. 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. No essays will be accepted more than two weeks late. Essays must follow the MLA format: on style and documentation for writing in the humanities. If you don't already have a copy of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Third Edition), please get a copy from the bookstore. Read the handout on plagiarism carefully, what it is and how to avoid it. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me.

Assignments and Grading
1. Seminar Presentation .................. 20%
2. Formal essay ......................... 40%
3. Final examination .................... 40%

Required Texts

Handouts for which there may be a minimal charge

READING LIST
Sept. 14/16 Historical and intellectual background to the Sixteenth Century
Sept. 21/23 Sonnets of Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard
Sept. 28/30 Thomas More's Utopia
Oct. 5/7 Sidney's Defence of Poetry; Castiglione, The Courtier, Book IV. trans. Hoby (Handout)
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Oct. 12/14  Selections from Sidney's "Astrophil and Stella" and from Spenser's "Amoretti"
Oct. 19/21  Queen Elizabeth, "Ah, silly pug, wert thou sore afraid"; Walter Ralegh, "Sir Walter Ralegh to the Queen," from "The Ocean to Cynthia," "The Lie"
Oct. 26/28  Shakespeare's sonnets
Nov. 2/4    Marlowe's "Hero and Leander," Donne's "To His Mistress Going to Bed."
Nov. 9/11   Jane Anger her Protection for Women (Handout)
Nov. 16/18  John Lyly's Euphues
Nov. 23/25  Robert Greene's Pandosto
Nov. 30/Dec. 2 Thomas Deloney's Jack of Newbury

Seminar Topics

The topics for discussion arise out of the readings assigned for each week. They are deliberately broad and open-ended allowing you the room to include a variety of cultural or political texts that can extend and broaden our understanding of 16th c. literary contexts. You are not, however, restricted to the specific selection of 16th c. authors and works on the reading list; the authors in brackets following the topics are suggestions only. Students will select their topics in the first week of term, and seminars will begin in the second week. Please make an appointment to see me at least one week in advance to discuss your topic and the direction or position you will be taking. The presentation, which may form the preliminary research for your term paper and is meant to be a "work in progress," can be in note form, or formally written (about 5 pages in total), plus a preliminary working bibliography -- all of which will be handed in. I will then respond, assign a mark (20% of the term's total mark) and make further suggestions for readings and research. Also, while your term paper may derive from your seminar, you are free to choose a second topic, or other author(s) that interest you.

Seminar Topics

Week Two: The Renaissance court and the political construction of culture (Skelton, Wyatt, Howard)
Week Three: New Discoveries and other forms of nationhood (More's Utopia)
Week Four: The Courtier, the Patron and the Poet (Spenser, Sidney).
Week Five: 'Loving in truth,' Poetry, Courtship, and Self-representation (Ralegh, Sidney).
Week Six: Literary authority and the 16th c. poet (Gascoigne, Harvey, Sidney, Spenser).
Week Seven: The art of courtiership and the politics of poetry.
Week Eight: Representing sexuality: Elizabethan erotic narrative poetry (Marlowe, Shakespeare, Chapman).
Week Nine: The renaissance and "The Women's Sharp Revenge" (women's writing in the 16th. c.)
Week Ten: "Some day my prince will come": 16th. c. prose romance (Lyly, Greene, Lodge).
Week Eleven: Middle-class fiction of the 16th. c. (Deloney, Nash).