UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
ENGLISH 330A -- ELIZABETHAN LITERATURE I

Instructor: Dr. Marianne Micros
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., 2:00 - 3:00
Class Times: Mon., Wed., 3:30 - 5:00

Course Description

A study of selected poetry and prose of the sixteenth century in England, in relation to cultural and New Historical concerns; gender and power issues; philosophies of love and realities of sex; the social, political, and literary environment and background; the development of literary forms, styles, and language; and our own systems of belief and subjective responses.

Required Texts

Salzman, Paul, ed. An Anthology of Elizabethan Prose Fiction. (Oxford)
Shakespeare, William. Shakespeare's Sonnets. Eds., Louis B. Wright & Virginia LaMar. (Folger)
Photocopied material available at Kinko's.

Optional Texts


Assignments

Short Essay on Utopia 2-3 pages Oct. 3 10%
Oral Presentation 10 minutes 10%
Quiz on sonnet sequences Nov. 7 10%
Major Essay 2000 words Nov. 23 35%
Final Exam 35%

Unless an extension is granted, 1% per day will be deducted from the marks of late papers.
COURSE OUTLINE

Sept. 12, 14  Introduction to the course and to the sixteenth century. Readings from Kinko's material — short excerpts from Hall, Harrison, Stow, Queen Elizabeth I's speech to the troops at Tilbury, Pico della Mirandola, Digges, Hakluyt, Ascham, Book of Common Prayer, Raleigh, Scot.

Sept. 19, 20  More's Utopia

Sept. 26  Sidney's Defence of Poetry
Sept. 28  Castiglione's Book of the Courtier (trans. Hoby)

Oct. 3, 5  Utopia essay due. Skelton -- "The Tunnyng of Elynowr Rummyng"; "With, Lullay, lullay, lyke a chylde"; "Manery Margery Mylk and Ale" (Sylvester)

Wyatt and Surrey (Sylvester)

Oct. 10  Thanksgiving — no class

Oct. 12, 17  Sidney's Astrophil and Stella (Sylvester)

Oct. 19, 24, 26  Spenser — Selections from The Shepheardes Calender (Kinko's); Amoretti (Sylvester); Epithalamion (Sylvester)

Oct. 31, Nov. 2  Shakespeare's Sonnets

Nov. 7  Quiz on sonnet sequences
Nov. 7, 9  Donne, "Elegie XIX, Going to Bed" (Kinko's); Marlowe, "The passionate Shepheard to his love" (Sylvester, pp. 497-8); Raleigh, "The Nymphs reply to the Shepheard" (Sylvester, pp. 331-2)

Nov. 14, 16  Pandosto (Salzman)

Nov. 21, 23  The Unfortunate Traveller (Salzman)

Nov. 23  Major Essay due

Nov. 28, 30  The women — Elizabeth Tudor, Mary Wroth, Anne Askew, Mary Stuart, Jane Anger, Two Short Extracts (Kinko's)

Dec. 5  Review, Summaries
TOPICS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Answer or discuss one of the following questions or statements. Please submit an outline of your presentation to the instructor at the time of your presentation. 10 minutes. 10%.

Sept. 26  Sidney's Defence of Poetry

1. Did poetry have a purpose and power in the sixteenth century? Pro. Why do you think it is superior to history and philosophy? Does Sidney prove that poetry is capable of imitating golden worlds?

2. Con.

Sept. 28 3. What do you learn about Sidney himself from the Defense?

4. Castiglione. Why did sixteenth-century writers worship women? Or did they?

Oct. 3 5. Skelton. How does Skelton portray women and sex?

6. Wyatt. How does Wyatt portray women and sex, in contrast with Skelton?

Oct. 5 7. Wyatt and Surrey. Which do you think is the better poet? According to what standards?

8. Wyatt and Surrey. The new English version of the Petrarchan lover -- Is he self-centred and weak? male chauvinist? sincere?


10. Does Sidney practice, in Astrophil and Stella, what he preached in his Defence?

Oct. 17 11. The blazon -- How does Sidney describe, catalogue, and use Stella's face and body parts in the poems?

12. Does Astrophil convey any moral lesson to the readers? Does Sidney?


14. Compare homosexual with heterosexual love in the poems studied from the Shepheardes Calender.

Oct. 24 15. Why did Spenser's courtship, in Amoretti, succeed, while Sidney's, in Astrophil and Stella, failed?
16. Discuss Queen Elizabeth's presence in Amoretti, Shepheardes Calender, and Epithalamion.

Oct. 26 17. Epithalamion -- a love story or the objectivization of a woman?

18. What is the significance of the mythological references in Epithalamion?

Oct. 31 19. Shakespeare's Sonnets -- Was Shakespeare gay -- or shouldn't we ask that question?


Nov. 2 21. Discuss Shakespeare's identity and personality as presented in the sonnets.

22. Compare the personal intimacy of Shakespeare's sonnets with the personal intimacy of the sonnets of Sidney and Spenser.

Nov. 7 23. Donne, Marlowe, Raleigh. Discuss the relationships among clothing, bodies, and nature in these three poems. Compare.

24. Compare the portrayal of a woman's body in Donne's "Going to Bed" with the portrayal of women's bodies in some poems by Sidney and Spenser.

Nov. 9 25. "Going to Bed" -- sexist and male chauvinist or delightful sensuality?

26. Utopias of love -- what ideal is established or exploded by each poet?

Nov. 14 27. Pandosto. What is the role and significance of incest in the story?

28. Psychoanalyze Pandosto's personality.

Nov. 16 29. Why did Shakespeare make the changes he did when he adapted this story into his Winter's Tale?

30. A reader's response to the ending -- Is it a let-down or satisfying?

Nov. 21 31. The Unfortunate Traveller. Jack Wilton as traveller. What kind of observer is he? Does he learn anything?

32. Why all the sex and violence? Is there a moral point?
Nov. 23  33. Is there a meaning or purpose to this story?

34. Women, Jews, and foreigners -- the author's attitude.

Nov. 28  The women as anti-establishment and their different ways of rebelling:

35. Elizabeth I and Mary Stuart -- power

36. Askew -- religion

Nov. 30  37. Wroth -- attitude to love

38. Anger -- satire -- woman's identity and the behaviour expected of her
ASSIGNMENT I
SHORT ESSAY ON UTOPIA
Due: October 3, 1994
2-3 pages

WRITE A SHORT ESSAY ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

1. Write a letter or journal entry from the point of view of a Utopian. Include your (you as the Utopian) attitudes to certain features of Utopian life. Be specific.

2. In your opinion is Utopia a perfect place, and do you think More (the author) thought it was perfect?

3. What picture of England during Henry VIII's reign does More's Utopia convey, especially to today's reader?

4. Would you rather live in More's England or in Utopia?

5. Examine the role and relevance of one of the following characters in Book I -- the fool, the friar, the lawyer, Peter Giles, Cardinal Morton -- and his significance to material presented in Book II.