ENGLISH 330A: SIXTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE I

Professor B. Cantar
Office: Hagey Hall 267, Tel. ext. 3361
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs. 1:00-2:30 (or by appointment).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey of the major prose and poetry of the sixteenth century, the Renaissance or early modern period as it is now called, in the wider context of historical and cultural concerns. Some of the topics we might discuss are the role of the Tudor and Elizabethan courts in fashioning subjects and culture, patronage and the problem of literary authority, the relationship between subjectivity, gender and power, the link between culture and colonization. Since this literature was produced at the time of England's cultural and political ascendancy in both Europe and the "New World," we will keep in the foreground the relevance of sixteenth-century British culture to a post-colonial world, a question that will shape our readings of texts, many of which are considered to be the bedrock upon which literature in the English language is founded.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

The course will consist of lectures and seminar presentations on selected topics, issues, and/or texts. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to have read the assigned texts, and be prepared to enter fully into class discussion and debate. While no marks are specifically allotted for attendance and participation, students who do attend and participate may earn extra marks towards their final grade.

Seminars:

At the beginning of term, each student will choose a topic, text, or issue for a 20 minute seminar presentation during the Thursday class of each week. A written summary and working or preliminary bibliography is to be handed in immediately following the seminar, but no later than one week later. Your seminar need not be conclusive or exhaustive; it should be regarded as a "work in progress," focus on a specific problem or issue, and conclude with questions that will initiate class discussion or debate, discussion that may well provide some valuable suggestions for your final project. I will grade the oral and written presentations, and return the written portion with comments and suggestions for further directions or research possibilities.

Term Paper:

There will be one major research essay (2000-2500 words, 8-10 typewritten pgs.). Ideally, this paper will arise from your preliminary research for your seminar presentation, although you are certainly free to choose a second topic of interest. There will also be a three hour final examination during the regular examination period. Since both your seminar and term paper require outside research, please read carefully the note on plagiarism below.

Essays must follow the format laid out in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (NY: Modern Language Association), available in the library or the bookstore.
REQUIRED TEXTS


Reading package (Arts Copy Centre, Hagey Hall)

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

1. Seminar Presentation  
2. Research essay due Nov. 23.  
3. Final examination  

40%  
40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

Extensions must be granted by me *in advance* of the due date. Papers are due *in class* on the due date. If you must hand the paper at any other time on that day, have it initialed with the date and time, by a department secretary. Then deposit it in my mailbox in the English department mailroom. *Never* slip a paper under my office door. *Always* keep a copy of any paper you hand in. Papers handed in late without prior permission will incur a penalty of 2% per day. Papers handed in late more than two weeks late without prior permission may not be accepted.

PERSONAL CONSULTATION:

I expect many of you will want to consult with me on an on-going basis with questions regarding your seminar presentation and your term paper. My regular office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus: Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 - 2:30 pm. If, however, these times are inconvenient either because of a line-up, or because of a conflict with your own class schedule, I am available at other times, and on other days -- providing you let me know in advance when you want to meet with me. If you need to get in touch with me, and I am not in my office, leave a detailed message on my voice-mail which I check frequently, and a phone number where I can reach you. Or, you may reach me by E-mail: bcantar@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM

Students are advised to read the summary of the Student Academic Discipline Policy in the Undergraduate Calendar which states in part:

A University is a community of people--faculty, students and staff who are committed to scholarship, i.e. the generation of sharing knowledge through research and teaching. All members of this community are expected to conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, fairness, and a concern for others. Any such action which violates these principles is viewed as a serious offence because it undermines the trust on which such a community is built. Together with cheating, theft and falsification, academic offences include plagiarism, the act of taking ideas of writings from another person and presenting them as one's own. While it is completely acceptable to use ideas, and even quote passages from other scholars, their work must be completely and unambiguously acknowledged and referenced. If you are unsure about what is considered acceptable practice in this regard, you should seek guidance from the professor teaching the course.
### TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE: Seminar Topics

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Sept 12</td>
<td>Preliminaries, expectations, general introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Sept 19</td>
<td>The Tudor Court and its Poets: Englishing Petrarch: Sir Thomas Wyatt, the Elder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Sept 21</td>
<td>Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (<em>ESC</em>?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Sept 26</td>
<td>Imagined Communities/Alternate Realities: Thomas More's <em>Utopia</em></td>
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<td>Thurs. Sept 28</td>
<td>More's <em>Utopia</em>, cont'd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct  5</td>
<td>Literary authority: Sir Philip Sidney. <em>A Defense of Poetry</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Oct  10</td>
<td>Self-fashioning, fashioning the &quot;other&quot;: from Sidney's &quot;Astrophil and Stella&quot; (<em>ESC</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct  12</td>
<td>Fashioning the poet: Edmund Spenser: from &quot;Amoretti&quot; (<em>ESC</em>)</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct  17</td>
<td>Alternate realms: Elizabethan pastoral: Marlowe, Raleigh</td>
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<td>Thurs. Oct  19</td>
<td>Colonizing/lyricizing the body: Donne, &quot;To His Mistress Going to Bed&quot; (Reading package)</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct  24</td>
<td>Elizabethan (Homo)erotic Narrative Poetry?: Marlowe's &quot;Hero and Leander&quot; (<em>ESC</em>)</td>
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<td>Thurs. Oct  26</td>
<td>Marlowe, cont'd.</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct  31</td>
<td>The problem of patronage, &quot;a lover's discourse&quot;: selected Shakespeare sonnets (Reading package)</td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov  2</td>
<td>Shakespeare's sonnets cont'd.</td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov  9</td>
<td>Portraying the Englishman abroad: Thomas Nashe, <em>The Unfortunate Traveller</em></td>
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<td>Tues. Nov 14</td>
<td>Portraying the Englishman at home: Thomas Deloney, <em>Jack of Newbury</em></td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov 16</td>
<td>Elizabethan prose fiction cont'd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Nov 21</td>
<td>Exceptional women at play: the poetry of Mary Stuart (Queen of Scots) and Elizabeth I (Reading package)</td>
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<td>Thurs. Nov 23</td>
<td>Consolidating the middle-class family: Extract from the Homily on Marriage (Reading package)</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov 28</td>
<td>&quot;The Woman's Sharp Revenge&quot;: <em>Jane Anger her Protection for Women</em> (Reading package)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Nov 30</td>
<td>Review, Conclusions, 400 years later.</td>
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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

This list is neither exhaustive, prescriptive, nor as up-to-date as it might be. It is, however, designed primarily as a "starter package" to stimulate your own ideas and to provide some resources for your seminars and essays. Each of the titles listed below will lead you into the specific area of the library where you can browse to your heart's content among what might well seem an overwhelming multitude of possibilities. The Journals listed below are particularly useful because this is where current ideas first appear long before they are expanded into books. Remember, a quick glance at the table of contents of either a book or a journal issue will give you an idea of what might be relevant to your project. So, before you even enter Porter, it's good to have a rough idea of what you might want to focus on.

General Cultural and Historical Background

Burekhardt, Jacob. The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy (1944)
Bush, Douglas. The Renaissance and English Humanism (1939)

Literary Studies

Mainly the works which have been called New Historicism to give you an idea of the latest concerns in Renaissance, or early modern, studies. There are also 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)
Fienberg, Nora. Elizabeth, Her Poets, and the Creation of the Courtly Manner (1988)
Parker, Patricia and David Quint, eds. Literary Theory/Renaissance Texts (1986)
Sinfelt, Alan. Literature in Protestant England (1560-1600)

Periodicals: again only a selection

English Literary History
English Literary Renaissance
Renaissance and Reformation
Renaissance Quarterly
Representations (available at St. Jerome's only, alas)
Sixteenth Century Studies
Studies in English Literature 1500-1900
English Studies in Canada