ENGLISH 330 B

— Elizabethan Literature 2 —

Instructor: Brenda Cantar
Office: Hagey Hall 263
Phone: ext. 3361

Required Texts:

A good handbook of essay writing and documentation style. The University bookstore stocks several
different volumes. Be sure the one you choose includes the revised (1984) M.L.A. recommendations for
writing in the Humanities.

Please read and thoroughly absorb the handout on plagiarism. If you have any questions, ask me for
clarification before you begin your essay.

Course objectives: in this section of Elizabethan literature we will concentrate on Edmund Spenser's The
Faerie Queene, and Philip Sidney's New Arcadia. Both of these are termed epic-romances; accordingly, part
of our exploration of these two texts will be to consider the nature of epic, the nature of romance, the nature
of allegory, and most importantly, the nature of language and of representation.

Students who do not have the prerequisite (English 330 A) are also required to read Castiglione, The
Courtier, transl. Hoby, Sidney's A Defence of Poetry, and his The Old Arcadia. I have some handouts of the
Castiglione, or it can be found in the Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. I. There are extra copies of
Sidney's texts in the bookstore and, of course, in the library.

Grading and assignments:

Two formal essays, 1500-2000 wds. (approx. 6-8 pgs. typed), and a final examination. Essays significantly
shorter than the required length are not acceptable, but should not exceed the required length by more than
a page.

Essay one: due Feb. 3 ........................................ 25%
Essay two: due Mar. 16 .................................... 25%
Final exam .................................................. 40%
Class participation ..................................... 10%

Class participation mark:

Class participation is essential, affording an interchange of ideas about the course material, as well as
enabling students to enhance understanding. Given class sizes, and a suspicion that the instructor could not
possibly know everybody’s name, students may feel that their contributions will go unrecognized and
unrewarded by the participation grade. However, students who do contribute to class discussions tend to
be the ones who are known because they demonstrate familiarity with, and interest in the texts. In light of
the foregoing, then, it goes without saying that part of the participation mark is for attendance.

Late penalty policy: essays must be submitted on time. If you are unable to meet the due date, you must
be granted an extension by me, or provide a medical certificate to avoid penalty. Otherwise an automatic
5% will be deducted for late submissions, and a further 1% for each weekday they are late. No essays will
be accepted more than two weeks after the due date.
Students are expected to be prepared for discussion arising not only from the primary texts, but also from a perusal of selected books and articles on the attached bibliography. This background reading will also enable you to formulate questions and topics for your essays. One essay must be on the *Arcadia* and one on *The Faerie Queene*, and might focus closely on a thematic, structural or generic aspect of the two texts.

**Week 1)** Introductory remarks; course organization; Elizabethan romance within the genre of romance from Heliodorus to Barbara Cartland.

**Week 2)** The plot of romance illustrated in Sidney's two *Arcadias*.

**Week 3)** The characters of romance illustrated in Sidney's two *Arcadias*.

**Week 4)** From romance to epic: Sidney's revisions.

**Week 5)** The gender of the reader: what evidence is there that Sidney inscribes a gendered readership in the *Arcadias*?

**Week 6)** Domination and Defiance: Parents and children in the *Arcadia*.

**READING WEEK**

**Week 8)** "A Letter of the Authors," *The Faerie Queene*, Book I, "a continued Allegory, or a darke conceit."

**Week 9)** *FQ*, Book II, Guyon and the nature of allegory.

**Week 10)** Book III, the Faery Queene/Gloriana and Queen Elizabeth. Images of the feminine.

**Week 11)** from Books IV and V: love, friendship & The Temple of Venus. Justice & the vision of Britomart.

**Week 12)** from Book VI, the blatant beast, the courtier and the poet.

**Week 13)** The endless work of romance, closure and the Mutabilitie Cantos.
These are a few references to get you started. The list is by no means exhaustive; nor are you limited to it. In fact, you are strongly encouraged to search out other material.

Parker, Patricia. *Inescapable Romance*.

.... "Romance" in *The Spenser Encyclopedi*a


Frye, Northrop. *The Secular Scripture*.


Kenneth Thorpe, *Romantic Love and Parental Authority in Sidney's "Arcadia"

Walter Davis, *Idea and Act in Elizabethan Fiction*

Christopher Martin, "Mis doubting His Estate: Dynastic Anxiety in Sidney's *Arcadia*" in *ELR* 18, 3 Autumn (1988): 369-388.

Richard McCoy, *Sir Philip Sidney: Rebellion in Arcadia*

Richard Helgerson. *The Elizabethan Prodigals*.

Gordon Teskey, "Allegory," in *The Spenser Encyclopedi*a


Jonathan Goldberg, *Endlesse Work: Spenser and the Structure of Discourse*. (difficult but worth the effort)