ENGLISH 350A

— Seventeenth-Century Non-Dramatic Literature 1 —

Fall 1995

Instr: R. R. Dubinski

Texts
5. Introductory Notes (purchase at KINKOS)

Course Outline

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A. Ben Jonson. Discoveries, pp. 401-417.

B. Ben Jonson. Epigrammes
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   XVIII. To My Mere English Censurer, p. 7
   XXXVI. To the Ghost of Martial (supplementary)
   VI. To Alchymists (supplementary)
   VII. On the New Hot-house (supplementary)
   XI. On Something That Walks Somewhere, p. 6
   XIX. On Sir Cod the perfumed (supplementary)
   XX. To the same Sir Cod (supplementary)
   XXI. On reformed Gam'ster (supplementary)
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   XXXVII. On Chev'rill the Lawyer (supplementary)
   XXXVIII. To Person Guiltie (supplementary)
   LVIII. To Groome Idiot (supplementary)
   LIX. On Spies, p. 9
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   CXVII. On Groyne (supplementary)
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D. Ben Jonson. A Celebration of Charis, p. 46

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Assignments

1. Two research essays, about 8 pages long each (2000 words), each worth 30% of the final grade.
2. A final exam covering the entire syllabus (3 hours long), worth 40% of the final grade.

A. Grading and Assessment of Assignments

1. I will follow the Faculty of Arts grading scale by assigning a letter from A+ to F- on your assignments. For purposes of averaging, I will use the numerical equivalent assigned to each letter grade from a 95 for an A+ to a 32 for an F-.

2. Besides marginal commentary and internal corrections, I will attach to the essay a summary evaluation sheet, pointing out strengths and weaknesses and offering suggestions for improvement.

3. In the “General Instructions for Preparing a Formal Essay” that follow, I note some of the qualities I look for in a good essay. The main purpose of my assessment is not to attach a label to your essay, but to provide you with suggestions on how to improve your work.

B. General Instructions for Preparing a Formal Essay

1. The assigned topics provide you with a central theme or problem which is intended as a focus for your paper.

2. Before you start to write an essay, it is essential for you to do some concentrated thinking about the issues raised by the topic. I suggest you make a list of “random reflections” as a way of surveying your thoughts on the subject. Once you have such a list, try to order these reflections in some coherent manner. Make an outline of the main divisions and subdivisions in your argument. Then try to keep to your outline as you compose the essay.

3. Limit your analysis and discussion to the topic and avoid introducing peripheral or extraneous material that has little or no bearing on your topic.
4. You must support your analysis or interpretation with evidence from the text(s) in question. This may take the form of a direct quotation or a brief paraphrase or summary. However, try to avoid including summaries for their own sake or evidence that may be either peripheral or redundant.

5. Organize your essay carefully so that it has a central idea or argument and a coherent structure. Make sure that there are adequate transitions between the various paragraphs and sections of your essay and that it ends with a logical conclusion based on the evidence that you have provided in support of your argument or thesis.

6. In topics requiring comparisons and contrasts, organize your essay around points of comparison and contrast rather than examining each work separately and then drawing some comparisons. This type of organization will help you to avoid repetition.

7. Write your essay in a style that is clear, precise and concise. You should use as few words as necessary to make your points clearly and precisely. Avoid loose and rambling sentences and exclude all redundancy and repetition. Avoid vagueness, ambiguity and awkwardness in expression. If a sentence seems awkward to you, rephrase it.

8. After you have completed a rough draft, I suggest you let it sit for a day or two before beginning revisions. This is to allow for second thoughts and reconsideration. In revising make sure that your points are well supported, that there are adequate transitions between parts of your essay, and that the essay has a firm conclusion. Finally, examine the essay for style. Remove all verbiage, tighten and rephrase sentences, try to vary the syntactical structure of your sentences, and especially avoid sentences that string together clauses joined by the conjunctions “and”. Needless to say, you should ensure that your sentences are grammatically correct and that your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

9. You are free to use whatever primary or secondary material you find helpful in writing your essay. But, it is important that you try to assemble your own insights and tentative conclusions before turning to the secondary material. This will enable you to enter into dialogue with other critics and to integrate other views into your own. Be sure that you acknowledge any borrowings from secondary sources.

10. I do not insist that your essays be typewritten, though I would prefer it. If you turn in a hand-written essay, make it as legible as possible, and please leave a good margin on the left hand side for comments.

11. For matters of form, I refer you to W.K. Thomas’s Correct Form in Essay Writing. You are expected to follow this manual for such matters as the correct form for quoting from a text, for footnoting and for bibliographies.
Essay Topics

A. Essay I

Instructions:
1. Choose one of the following topics.
2. Write a research essay about 8 pages in length (2000 words). You are expected to survey recent critical commentary (last 10 years or so) and integrate the results in your essay.
3. Weight: 30% of the final grade
4. Due Date: 18 October 1995
   1. Jonson's Heroes in The Epigrammes
   2. The Structure of Jonson's Epigrammes
   3. Jonson's Political Vision in "To Penshurst" and "To Sir Robert Wroth"
   4. Function of Mythology in "A Celebration of Charis"
   5. Herrick's Love Poems: Erotic or Pornographic?
   6. Herrick as a Son of Ben

B. Essay II

Instructions:
1. Choose one of the following topics.
2. Write a research essay about 8 pages in length (2000 words). You are expected to survey recent commentary (last 10 years or so) and integrate the results in your essay.
3. Weight: 30% of the final grade
4. Due Date: 5 December 1995
   1. Antifeminism in the "Songs and Sonnets" and "Elegies"
   2. Betrayal in the "Songs and Sonnets"
   3. Love as a Little World in the "Songs and Sonnets"
   4. The Frustrated Love Affair in the "Holy Sonnets"
   5. Self Discovery in The Temple
   6. The Song of Songs and Silex Scintillans

Other Information

1. Instructor
   a) office HH 258, phone 885-1211, ext. 2121
   b) office hours - by appointment
   c) home phone - 884-8395

2. Rewrite
   Essay I may be resubmitted without penalty.

3. Late Essays
   Unless acceptable reasons are presented, late essays will be penalized half a grade.

4. Incompletes
   Incompletes will be permitted only by prior arrangement and for an agreed period of time. Thereafter, a grade based on the work actually completed will be submitted.
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Epigrams


To Penshurst and To Sir Robert Wroth


**A Celebration of Charis**


**Herrick**


