

English 3329 • Early Modern British Drama • Fall 2018

Section 001: TR 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM, Hudspeth Hall 100

Professor: Ruben Espinosa
Office Hours: Hudspeth Hall 317, TR 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM; by appointment
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Course Overview

This course is an introduction to non-Shakespearean early modern English drama. This semester, we will focus on what is arguably the most fruitful period for the English theater, and we will explore how the theater engaged various socio-religious issues in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England. While the broad design will be to interrogate how these plays shed light on the society and culture within which they were produced, we will—more specifically—scrutinize what each play offers its audience in the way of understanding attitudes surrounding women, gender, sexuality, and race in the early modern period. More importantly, we will consider how these plays continue to bear meaningfully in our own world.

Required Texts

I have ordered the following plays:

- Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam* (Bloomsbury)
- Thomas Dekker, et al., *The Witch of Edmonton* (Bloomsbury)
- John Fletcher, *The Island Princess* (Bloomsbury)
- John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Bloomsbury)
- Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist* (Bloomsbury)
- Christopher Marlowe, *Edward II* (Broadview)
- John Webster, *The White Devil* (Mermaids)

Course Requirements

10% Class Participation (Discussion, in-class quizzes, and short writing assignments)
20% Group Project
20% Writing Assignment 1
20% Writing Assignment 2
15% Midterm Examination
15% Final Examination

Quizzes & Response Papers

I will assign both in-class and take-home short response papers. Quizzes will cover assigned reading and class discussions. All quizzes are unscheduled and unannounced, and therefore attendance is key (it is also important to be on time as quizzes will be given at the start of class). I do not offer make-up quizzes, nor do I accept late daily response papers.

Group Project

Students will collaborate to perform and film a rendition of a scene from any of the plays we cover during the semester. These films should not be more than five minutes, should employ some of the play's original dialogue, and should find a way to speak to contemporary/regional social issues. Beyond these guidelines, you have absolute creative license for the production of these films. We will meet with IT during the semester to learn about iMovie, and you will have access to technology through the University Library. All students are to submit a written "reflection" about the cultural significance of their production (300 words), and the groups will present their film near the end of the semester (see Schedule below).

Writing Assignments

You will have two writing assignments this semester—one creative essay and one critical essay. These essays will be **3-4 pages in length** and should demonstrate a clear understanding of the play being explored/analyzed. I will offer more specific guidelines for these assignments on Blackboard, and these will be available at least one week prior to the due date. I will be evaluating your papers based on organization, the clarity and strength of your argument, use of textual support (quotations from the literature), and quality of writing. Your essays should be double spaced, 12-point font, and should follow MLA style and format.

Students are to turn in a **hard copy** of their essays at the start of class on the assigned date (see Schedule below). **Late essays will not be accepted.** Late essays include papers left in my box or in my office without having made prior arrangements with me. It is your responsibility to complete the assignment in a timely manner so as to avoid issues with your computer and/or printer. If you are having difficulty with the literature and/or writing, please meet with me – I am not only here to help you, I want to help you. In addition, please make use of the University Writing Center.

Exams

You will be given two exams this semester – a midterm, and a final. The midterm will cover three plays while the final will cover four plays. The exams will include identification, short answer, and essay questions.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required and is a part of your Class Participation grade. If a medical or personal emergency forces you to miss class, it is your responsibility to provide documentation (doctor's note, funeral home director's note, etc.) and discuss it with me upon your return. You are also responsible for obtaining class notes from another student if you are absent. If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will receive a grade of "F" for the semester. Finally, please observe proper classroom etiquette – be respectful, turn off cell phones, and refrain from texting in class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's ideas, words, or writing, and attempting to disguise them as your own. Plagiarism includes failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words. Copying another student's paper or searching the Internet for papers is also plagiarism. Penalties include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, and suspension from the university.

SCHEDULE OF READING AND ASSIGNMENTS

(Schedule of Reading and Assignments Subject to Change)

<u>August</u>	T/28	Introduction to the course
	R/30	<i>Edward II</i>
<u>September</u>	T/4	<i>Edward II</i>
	R/6	iMovie Training – Meet in UGLC Room 306
	T/11	<i>Edward II</i>
	R/13	<i>Edward II; Masque of Blackness</i> (Blackboard)
	T/18	<i>The Alchemist</i>
	R/20	<i>The Alchemist</i>
	T/25	<i>The Alchemist</i>
	R/27	<i>The Alchemist; White Devil</i>
<u>October</u>	T/2	<i>The White Devil</i>
	R/4	<i>The White Devil</i>
	T/9	<i>The White Devil</i>
	R/11	Midterm Exam
	T/16	<i>The Tragedy of Mariam</i>
	R/18	<i>The Tragedy of Mariam</i>
	T/23	<i>The Tragedy of Mariam</i>
	R/25	Writing Assignment 1 Due / <i>The Tragedy of Mariam</i>
<u>November</u>	T/30	<i>The Witch of Edmonton</i>
	R/1	<i>The Witch of Edmonton</i>
	T/6	<i>The Witch of Edmonton</i>

R/8 *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

T/13 *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*
R/15 *'Ti's Pity She's a Whore*

T/20 *'Tis Pity She's a Whore / The Island Princess*
R/22 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

T/27 **Writing Assignment 2 Due** *The Island Princess*
R/29 *The Island Princess*

December T/4 *The Island Princess*
R/6 **Final Exam**

Final Project

Group Presentations: Thursday, December 13, 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM