

ENGLISH 476
DRAMA OF SHAKESPEARE'S CONTEMPORARIES
(Tudor / Stuart Drama)
Fall, 2007

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1. COURSE CONTENT and DESCRIPTION:

This course provides for a study of representative English dramatists of the 16th and early 17th centuries. Specifically, emphasis is on the development of the dramatic tradition in the plays of Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Philip Massinger, and John Webster. Further treatment is given to recurrent motifs that become apparent in the selected plays. In addition, the student should become aware certain social, political, and religious tenets as these tendencies are reflected in the various plays. One of Shakespeare's plays will be included for a comparative dramatic study in the course.

2. SELECTED READINGS:

Background to Tudor / Stuart Period (1580-1642)
The Spanish Tragedy – Thomas Kyd
Doctor Faustus – Christopher Marlowe
The Jew of Malta – Christopher Marlowe
Edward II – Christopher Marlowe
The Shoemaker's Holiday – Thomas Dekker
Volpone (or The Fox) – Ben Jonson
The Duchess of Malfi – John Webster
A New Way to Pay Old Debts – Philip Massinger
Hamlet – William Shakespeare

3. TEXTS:

1. Students may use any edition of Shakespeare's Hamlet as long as the text includes act #, scene #, and line # markings; we will be referencing lines during classroom discussions.
2. English Renaissance Drama compiled by Dr. Krienke. This text is available for purchase at Eagle Graphics Center (1304 Sam Houston Ave. in Huntsville next to Movie Gallery and Mayflower Bakery).

4. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Series of "Reading Assignments" and "Writing Prompts" will be evaluated as a major grade. There are no make-ups given for missed assignments; however, one low grade will be dropped.
2. Three (3) major essay examinations will be given during the semester. The examinations emphasize literary analysis.
3. A critical paper/project will be due near the end of the semester. This project will be explained in class.
4. Considerations will be given for class participation.
5. A comprehensive final examination will be evaluated as 2 major grades.

5. **ABSENCE POLICY:**

The University bulletin stresses the importance of punctuality and "regular" attendance. In order to adhere to their guidelines, I have adopted the following absence policy for my classes:

1. A student is allowed three (3) absences during the semester without any penalty being imposed. (This absence without penalty does not apply to any work missed.)
2. If a student misses more than four (4) to five (5) meetings during the semester, the student will be penalized two (2) points.
3. After the student misses six (6) classes during the semester, he or she will not receive credit for the course.
4. If a student has maintained a perfect attendance for the entire semester, he or she will have three (3) points added to the final grade in the course.

6. **GRADING SYSTEM:**

All grades are based on a 100 point scale: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F. All work must be completed and turned in on time or you will fail by default.

Your final course grade will be calculated and averaged as follows:

1. Average of reading assignments and writing will be 1 component
2. 3 major exams will be 3 components
3. Project, if applicable, will be 1 component
4. Final examination will be 2 components

I add the grade of each component and divide by the total number of components to determine your final grade. The last consideration given for grade distribution is to include points for perfect attendance or to subtract points for lack of attendance.