

Fall 2017
Dr. L. Dickson

English 281
English Renaissance Literature

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| TIME | MONDAY/WEDNESDAY 8:30-10:20 |
| Location | AGORA 7-158 |
| Office Hours | Monday 10:30-12:30: Drop-In; first-come, first-served; Thursday 1:00-5:00: Available for appointments; email me by Wednesday at 4:30 for a time slot |
| Email | Lisa.Dickson@unbc.ca |
| Phone | 250.960.5364 |
| Class blog | http://blogs.unbc.ca/engl281/ All course materials are available here. Check the blog regularly for updates and announcements. |

Course Description

The "English Renaissance" was a time of great growth and upheaval during which the nation witnessed the circumnavigation of the world, the development of English nationalism and imperialism, religious schism and the Reformation, and the horrors of regicide and the Civil War. This period also saw the explosion of English literature as the English language began to make a claim to the beauty and expressiveness formerly ascribed only to the "international," scholarly languages of the Continent. This course will introduce students to the poetry, prose and drama of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Touching on such important contextual documents as the speeches of Queen Elizabeth and The Book of Homilies, we will place the works of such writers as Marlowe, Spenser, Sidney, Lanyer, Philips, and Milton in their political, social and religious contexts. We will also be paying careful attention to the important formal aspects of the works. While classes will include lectures, there will be a strong emphasis on discussion and class participation, as we will also be developing reading, communication, interpretation, research and writing skills. Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive having read and considered assigned material. Please make sure you come to class with notes for these discussions.

Required Text

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. 9th edition. Vol. B

Learning Objectives

In this course you will have the opportunity to

- develop an understanding of the broad strokes of literary history from the Early Modern Period (16th and 17th centuries) and of the roles played by some of the key artistic, intellectual, historical, political and technological changes in the British context over this period;
- be introduced to a range of genres and literary forms and the contexts that inform them;
- develop and refine your close reading and analytical skills;
- develop the ability to give and receive constructive feedback in a peer-to-peer learning environment;
- practice verbal communication through class participation and written communication through essay and exam writing;
- practice research methodologies and using bibliographic databases;
- develop the skills to access and assess secondary sources;
- formulate and clearly articulate an analytical or research question and a thesis;
- develop effective note-taking, record-keeping and time/information management practices

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| Evaluation |
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| Assignment | Percentage of Final Grade | DUE DATES | Notes/Comments |
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| Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 weekly assignments • Learning Journal | 5% 5% | Weeks 2-6 | Brief assignments building on basic skills. See the assignment descriptions on the "Assignments" page of the class blog. |
| Revision | 5% | Before Nov 18 | You will revise one assignment based on feedback you receive. |
| Discussion Question | 5% | Sign up | You will sign up for a specific reading in class and hand in your question and answer on the date the reading is assigned in the "Reading and Assignments Schedule." |
| Remix | 10% | Oct 2 | See description on the "Assignments" page of the blog. |
| Midterm Exam | 15% | Oct 11 | To be written during the regular class period. NOTE: See the Undergraduate Calendar for regulations regarding missed exams. |
| Essay | | | You will CHOOSE EITHER OPTION A OR OPTION B |
| Essay Option A | | | |

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| Outline Essay (6 pages) | 15% 20% | Oct 30 Nov 15 | Essay topics will be available on the "Assignments" page of the class blog. |
| Essay Option B Essay (6 pages) | 35% | Nov 15 | |
| Final Exam | 20% | TBA | NOTE: No make-up exams will be scheduled for reasons of travel. Do not make travel plans until the exam schedule has been issued. See the Undergraduate Calendar for regulations regarding missed exams. |
| Total | 100% | | All grades noted in LETTER FORMAT (see grading rubrics on the class blog for grading criteria). Grades are official once they have been released by the Office of the Registrar. |

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| Late Assignment Policy |
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NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED without medical documentation. All assignments are due **AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**. Any assignments received after the close of the collection period **WILL NOT BE GRADED**. Computer problems are not acceptable excuses for late papers. Keep copies of all material submitted for grading.

DO NOT put assignments under my office door or in the pockets beside it. Any assignments submitted in this fashion **WILL NOT BE GRADED** and you will receive a grade of **ZERO**.

Assignments and Expectations

General Notes:

Assignment Descriptions: Detailed assignment descriptions are available on the class blog on the "Assignments" page. The descriptions include the following: 1) Learning Outcomes; 2) Step-by-step instructions; 3) Formatting instructions and checklist; 4) Assessment Criteria.

Download/print/copy these descriptions and follow them closely. Bring any questions you have about assignments either to class or to office hours.

A note on participation: While there is no specific grade assigned to participation, it is nevertheless a crucial underpinning to all of the other aspects of the course and, in fact, all of your education. To be successful in this course and at university, you must be willing to be part of an intellectual community of exploration and inquiry. *Remember: Your education is something YOU DO. It is not something that is done to you.*

“no one can say a true word alone—nor can she say it for another” ~ Paulo Freire

“Otherness, taken seriously, always invites transformation, calling us not only to new facts and theories and values but also to new ways of living our lives” ~ Parker J. Palmer

Therefore, we will be working toward the following objectives during the course:

- PRACTICE speaking in small and large groups;
- SUMMARIZE, QUESTION, DEBATE, RECAP, SUPPORT, CHALLENGE, SYNTHESIZE, EXTRAPOLATE, RECONSIDER, MODIFY. In other words: APPLY your learning in the dynamic space of discussion;
- PRACTICE *engaged* and *respectful listening*;
- VALUE, INTEGRATE and EVALUATE the perspectives and experiences of others;

Speaking in a large group can be intimidating, but we will work together in class to help you to build a skill set to tackle this challenge. If you wish to discuss participation, feel free to stop by during office hours and we can work together to find a strategy that will work for you.

A note on PLAGIARISM: Students are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Definitions of PLAGIARISM and the related penalties for this offence are available in the English Program Handbook and in the Undergraduate Calendar. Be sure to familiarize yourself with these as ignorance of the rules is no excuse and anyone caught committing an academic offence will face the severest penalties. *If you are unsure or have questions, consult your instructors or the Academic Success Centre. We are happy to help you.*

A note on Accessibility: If you are dealing with physical or learning challenges, please meet with the instructor so that we can explore appropriate accommodations. All such consultations are confidential.

A note on sleep: I am aware that we all have a great deal on our plates and are often burning the

candle at both ends; however, sleeping in class is not the same as attending and is very distracting to the instructor and to fellow students. If you are too tired to stay awake for the full 80 minutes, please stay home, get some useful sleep, and come back ready to engage when you feel better. *You are responsible for any missed material.*

General Regulations and Brief Description of Assignments

All materials handed in for grade MUST have the following information either in a header or on a separate cover sheet. Copy and paste this template into your assignments.

Your name

Your student ID #

Course Name

Instructor's Name

Assignment Title

Your Subtitle (where applicable, as on the Remix or Essay Outline and Essay assignments)

Date Submitted

Homework 10%

Students will complete a series of brief exercises designed to help you to practice your close reading skills and to offer you feedback in advance of the midterm and research assignments. One assignment will be due each week for weeks 2-6. The Learning Journal (minimum 5 [FIVE] 100-word entries) will be submitted at the end of February.

Discussion Questions 5%

You will SIGN UP for a reading from the "Reading and Assignment Schedule" and write a discussion question and answer for that reading. You will hand in the discussion question at the beginning of the class in which that reading is scheduled. I will be happy to provide feedback on discussion questions and answers if you would like to submit **extra** questions. You will write "FOR FEEDBACK ONLY" on any practice discussion questions. *You may not use a "for feedback" discussion question for grade.*

Mid-Term Examination 15%

The mid-term examination will take place during the regular class period and will be 1 hour, 10 mins. in duration. Students who miss the midterm will receive a grade of zero. No make-up exam will be scheduled unless the student produces medical documentation within the stipulated time period. See regulations regarding exams in the Undergraduate Calendar. Travel plans will not be considered as excuses for missed exams and no make-up will be scheduled for this reason.

Remix 10%

You will choose any text from the "Readings and Assignment Schedule" and respond to it creatively. You will also write a 300-word "Artist's Statement." See the Assignment Description on the blog for more.

Essay 35%

Choose EITHER Option A OR Option B.

NOTE: Your choice will be recorded. You MAY NOT CHANGE YOUR CHOICE OF OPTIONS once it is recorded. Therefore, if you choose OPTION A (Outline and Essay) but do not hand in an outline on the due date, you CANNOT DEFAULT TO OPTION B. You will receive a grade of ZERO on the outline and your essay will be graded out of 20%.

Essays will be 6 (SIX) pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman 12 pt font.

Print the "Grading Summary" document from the class blog and hand it in with your essay.

OPTION A: You may choose to break up the 35% of the essay grade into two parts by submitting an outline for advance feedback.

Essay Outline 15%

You will respond to one of the essay questions distributed in class (See the "Assignments" page of the class blog). You will write a 2-page (single-spaced) outline of your essay. You will receive extensive feedback on this outline. You will also include a working bibliography.

Essay 20%

You will write an essay based on your outline. Your essays should be guided by a thoughtful and significant thesis and should provide evidence from primary and secondary sources. Each essay should contain a Works Cited with AT LEAST TWO (2) books/critical collections and TWO (2) journal articles **in addition to your citations of the primary texts.**

OPTION B: You will respond to one of the essay questions distributed in class (See the "Assignments" page of the class blog). You will write the essay as described above for the full 35% and hand it in on the essay due date.

Final Examination 25%

The final examination will be written during the exam period. It will be 2 hours in duration and will address material covered since the beginning of the course. Students who miss the exam will receive a grade of zero. **No make-up exam will be scheduled unless the student produces medical documentation within the stipulated time period. See regulations regarding exams in the Undergraduate Calendar. Travel plans will not be considered as excuses for missed exams and no make-up will be scheduled for this reason.**