

**Nanyang Technological University**  
**Division of English**  
**HL 2002 Renaissance Literature**  
**Course Blog: <https://renaissanceliterature.wordpress.com>**  
**Semester 1 (Academic Year 2017-2018)**

**Instructor: Jane Wong**  
**Office: HSS 03-58; Office Hours: TBA**  
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### **Course Description**

This course introduces major themes and authors in English Renaissance Literature. The works that we will be studying are concerned with Renaissance political traditions and intersections in European intellectual thought. These include the idea of governance and kingship, writing and patronage (and censorship), ethics and philosophy, and religious conflict in early modern England. This course aims to develop a strong foundation of what is arguably the most important historical period in the development of English literature. The materials covered in this course should also encourage students to consider how literary narratives merge with historical discourse to produce meaningful interpretations of English culture in the early modern period.

### **Important Notes:**

#### **You must agree to abide by these guidelines to remain registered in this course**

- All students who need to consult during office hours should send an email at least 3 working days ahead of time. Email queries are only acceptable if they do not involve lengthy discussion sessions to avoid miscommunication, instead you should make an appointment to see me in my office. Please allow at least a day or two for responses to emails (with the exception of weekends and public holidays).
- Office consultation: Please come prepared with questions so that we can address your concerns effectively and efficiently. Out of consideration for your classmates who may also need consultation time, I will limit consultations to about 20 mins for each student.
- I will not attend to group consultations and will see students individually.
- Be sure to arrive on time to class, and if you have to leave early, pls. let me know ahead of time. As usual, pls. be respectful to your classmates and be sure to turn off all electronic devices during lectures and tutorials.
- Use of course resources:
  - 1) **All materials** distributed in class and on the course blog are meant to be used for class lectures and discussions only. They are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any

other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.

- 2) You are not allowed to record lectures in any form without permission from the instructors.
  - If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to check our course blog for updates or announcements that you may have missed.
  - Late assignments: written assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty of half a grade each day (including weekends and holidays); if I do not receive an assignment a week after it is due, you will receive a 0 for the essay.
  - Absence in class: if you are absent on the day when an in-class writing assignment is due, you will not be able to make-up for this. Those who are absent for presentations will not have the opportunity to make-up their work in another group's presentation.
  - Any attempt at plagiarism will be subjected to university disciplinary action.

### Course Assessment

Essay	20%
Presentation & Participation	20%
Critical Review	10%
Exam	50%

### Required Texts:

Kyd, Thomas. *The Spanish Tragedy*. ISBN: 978-1904271604

Shakespeare, William. *The History of King Lear: The Oxford Shakespeare The History of King Lear*. ISBN: 978-0199535828\*

Shakespeare, William. *Henry IV: Part Two* (Signet Classics). ISBN: 978-0451528537\*

Jonson, Ben. *Volpone: Ben Jonson* (Revels Student Editions MUP). ISBN: 978-0719051821

Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queene, Books Three and Four (Bk. 3 & 4)* (Hackett). ISBN: 978-0872208551

Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus* (Norton Critical Editions). ISBN: 978-0393977547

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost* (Hackett Classics). ISBN: 978-0872207332

Foxe, John. *Foxe's Book of Martyrs: Selected Narratives* (Oxford). ISBN: 978-0199236848

\*NOTE: If you are planning on taking HL 3030 Major Author: Shakespeare next term, you should purchase Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (2002). ISBN: 978-0141000589 instead of separate Shakespeare texts for this class. This text, however, has not been ordered (since it's for HL 3030). You will have to source your own copy if you decide to buy it.

### Tentative Course Outline

Week	Topic	Deadlines
1 Romance 16 Aug.	Introduction	
2 Romance 23 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i>	
3 Ethics and Philosophy 30 Aug	Ben Jonson's <i>Volpone</i>	
4 Ethics and Philosophy 6 Sept.	Christopher Marlowe's <i>Dr. Faustus</i>	
5 Governance and Kingship 13 Sept.	Film (TBA).	Abstracts due
6 Governance and Kingship 20 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV (II)</i>	
7 Tragedy 27 Sept.	Thomas Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i>	
8 Recess 4 Oct.	Recess	

8 Tragedy 11 Oct.	William Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i>	
9 Tragedy 18 Oct.	<i>Deepavali</i>	
10 Religion 25 Oct.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>	Essay Due
11 Religion 1 Nov.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>	
12 Religion 8 Nov.	Excerpts from John Foxe's <i>Book of Martyrs</i> and D. R. Woolf's essay "Historical Writing in Britain" (both can be found under "E-Resources on the course blog)	
13 Review 15 Nov.	Exam Review	Critical Review due