

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English
HL 2002 Renaissance Literature
Semester 1 (Academic Year 2020–2021)
Course Blog: <https://renaissanceliterature.wordpress.com>

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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.
- **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.

- 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. Please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policies here: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>

Course Assessment

Presentation	20%
Participation	10%
2 Short Critical Responses	30% (15% each)
Final Essay	40%

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 1* (Penguin Classics). ISBN: 978-0143130208*

Shakespeare, William. *Henry IV, Part 2* (Penguin Classics). ISBN: 978-0143131762*

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

*NOTE: If you are planning on taking HL 3030 Major Author: Shakespeare in the future, 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
Week 1 11 Aug.	Introduction	
Week 2 Romance 18 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i> (Cantos 1–2) *In addition, pls. also read "Letter to Raleigh" which can be found in the same text, on pages 451-454 (If you are using a different version of the book, the "Letter to Raleigh" is normally either at the beginning or the end of the text.)	
Week 3 Romance 25 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i> (Cantos 3–7)	
Week 4 Governance and Kingship 1 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part 1</i>	
Week 5 Governance and Kingship 8 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part 2</i>	
Week 6 Tragedy 15 Sept.	Introduction to Tragedy (TBA) (Union Day: Class will end at 10:30am in accordance with Union Day)	
Week 7 Tragedy 22 Sept.	Thomas Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i>	

Week 8 29 Sept.	Recess	
Week 9 Tragedy 6 Oct.	William Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i>	
Week 10 Reformation 13 Oct.	Excerpts from John Gerard's <i>The Autobiography of a Hunted Priest</i> (posted on course blog)	
Week 11 Reformation 20 Oct.	Excerpts from John Foxe's <i>Book of Martyrs</i> (posted on course blog)	
Week 12 Reformation 27 Oct.	Christopher Marlowe's <i>Dr. Faustus</i>	
Week 13 Religion 3 Nov.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Books I and II)	
Week 14 Religion 10 Nov.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Books III –V)	Tentative deadline for Final Essay (to be confirmed)