Sixteenth-Century Poetry & Prose

ENGL 3320, MLENG 5320 ~ Section A
Fall 2016 ~ Tuesdays & Thursdays ~ 3:35-4:50 ~ Strake 206

Instructor: Dr. Clinton Brand
Office: Malloy 228
Department of English
Office Telephone: 713-942-5072
Malloy Hall, Box No. 65
E-mail: brandc@stthom.edu
Office Hours: M - Th, 1:00-3:00 (& by appointment)

Objectives: This course offers a critical survey of sixteenth-century English non-dramatic literature. We will study the principal literary achievements of the first half of the English literary Renaissance in verse and prose. We will also set these works in the relevant historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts of Henrician and Elizabethan society. Over the course of the term, students will (1) become conversant with major works of sixteenth-century poetry and prose, (2) engage the study of Renaissance intellectual contexts and historical backgrounds, (3), articulate critical arguments about literary meaning in discussion and writing.


Requirements: To receive credit for this course students are expected to attend class regularly, read all of the assignments on the syllabus, participate in class discussion, sit for a mid-term and final examinations, take several reading quizzes, and submit two formal essays (5-6 pages each). MLA students will also research and compose a short annotated bibliography and write a critical research paper in consultation with the instructor (in place of Essay 2).

Unexcused absences and habitual tardiness will not be tolerated and will result in a reduction of the final grade at the instructor’s discretion.

Written work is due on the dates designated on the syllabus, at the beginning of class. Work submitted late without prior approval will be penalized with the reduction of letter grade for each two-day period past the due date.

The University’s policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced, and students are strongly urged for familiarize themselves with the relevant sections of the Undergraduate Catalog and the Student Handbook.

Grading: For the satisfactory achievement of these requirements, letter grades will be awarded and will constitute percentages of the final grade as follows:

Mid-term Exam 20 %  Essay 1 20 %
Final Exam 25  Essay 2 25
Participation & Quizzes 10
Sixteenth-Century Poetry & Prose Schedule of Readings & Assignments

**August**
23 T  Introductory: The Literary Renaissance of Tudor England
25 Th  Sixteenth-century literary culture (NAEL, pp. 485-511) / Davies, “Orchestra” (handout)


**September**
1 Th  Erasmus, *Praise of Folly* (pp. 9-134)
6 T  *Praise of Folly*, cont. / Introducing More’s *Utopia* (handouts)
8 Th  More, *Utopia* (pp. 1-85)

13 T  *Utopia*, cont.

22 Th  *An Apology for Poetry* (pp. 56-126), cont.

27 T  Petrarch Refracted: The English Sonnet Tradition / Fussell on the sonnet (handout) / Wyatt (NAEL, pp. 592-606) / Surrey (NAEL, pp. 607-15) / A miscellany of Elizabethan lyrics (handout)
29 Th  Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (pp. 128-210)

**October**
4 T  Sidney, cont.
6 Th  Sidney, cont.

11 T  Fall break ~ no class
13 Th  Shakespeare, *Sonnets* (NAEL, pp. 1058-76)

18 T  Spenser, *Amoretti and Epithalamion* (NAEL, pp. 902-16) / Essay 1 due
20 Th  Mid-term Examination

25 T  The literature of the sacred / Faith in conflict (NAEL, pp. 616-17) / [Rivers, Chps. 7, 8, 10] / Poems, Protestant & Popish (handout) / The Articles of Religion (handout)
27 Th  Literature of the sacred, cont. (handouts)

**November**

3 Th  The Ovidian Renaissance / Golding, Metamorphoses (NAEL, pp. 703-04)

8 T  Marlowe (NAEL, pp. 1001-04), Hero and Leander (NAEL, pp. 1004-22)

10 Th  Shakespeare, Venus and Adonis (handout)

15 T  Spenserian allegory (NAEL, pp. 705-07, 714-19); Spenser, The Faerie Queene, Book I (NAEL, pp. 719-856)

17 Th  FQ, Bk. I, cont. / MLA bibliographies & prospecti due

22 T  FQ, Bk. I, cont. / Essay 2 due

24 Th  Thanksgiving Break ~ no class

29 T  FQ, Bk. I, cont. / MLA Research Papers due

December

1 Th  Conclusion & review

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 13, 1:45-4:15