

Draft (hours and location may change)

## **EL 202: The English Renaissance**

**Instructor:** Jameson Kismet Bell

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**Course Schedule:** TBA

**Office:** TB440

**Office hours:** By appointment. Please email.

### **Course Description:**

Historically, the term “Renaissance” designates a variety of intellectual, cultural, artistic, and political movements that occurred across the European continent from the 14th to the 17th centuries. The “English Renaissance,” however, is more closely associated with the 16th century: a period that witnessed developments ranging from religious upheaval and geographic expansion to “new learning” and the rise of the scientific method. In this course, our goal will be to trace literary representations of political, religious, cultural, and artistic forms of the early modern English world, while paying close attention to continuities with medieval tradition and continental Europe. Throughout the semester, we will place our literary texts in conversation with a variety of genres and examples of visual and oral cultures.

### **Required and Suggested Texts:**

Course pack available at the Library Copy Shop and on Moodle. Other information will be shared on Moodle or my website, [www.jamesonkismetbell.com](http://www.jamesonkismetbell.com)

### **Background information:**

Lectures, images, videos, and other resources will be available on my website and Moodle.

### **Grade Structure and Scale:**

**Attendance (Lectures), Quizzes, Participation 10%**

**Close Readings 30%**

**Midterm Exam 30%**

**Final Exam 30%**

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**Grading Scale:**

**AA 100-90:** Exceeded course expectations and offered an outstanding performance in class participation, exams, writing, and other assignments.

**BA 89-85:** All course expectations were met with an excellent performance in class participation, exams, writing, and other assignments.

**BB 84-80:** Very good performance. Most course expectations were met with above average performance in class participation, exams, writing, and other assignments.

**CB 79-75:** Good performance: Most course expectations were met with above average performance in class, exams, writing, and other assignments.

**CC 74-70:** Average performance. Some course requirements were not met and student performance in class, exams, writing, and other assignments was neither remarkable nor inadequate.

**DC 69-65:** Inadequate performance. Many course requirements were not met and student offered a below average performance in class, exams, writing, and other assignments.

**DD 64-60:** Inadequate performance. Most course requirements were not met. Performance in class, exams, writing, and other assignments barely merit a passing grade.

**F 59-0:** Fail.

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## **Expectations**

**Writing:** Short close reading essays will allow for further exploration of topics found in readings and lectures. Essays will be submitted using Turnitin.com: <http://www.turnitin.com/>

If you have difficulty writing clearly, you should visit the BU online writing lab (<http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/>) or the YADYOK website (<http://www.yadyok.boun.edu.tr/index.htm>) for help.

**You can also visit me in office hours. Set up an appointment early rather than late.**

**Attendance:** We will conduct all lectures during the scheduled time and you are expected to attend 75% of the classes each week. There will be announced and unannounced quizzes and responses in class. Please communicate any problems you have or missed classes (email). You are expected to be at all lectures unless you communicate with me a valid excuse.

**Midterm & Final Exams:** The format of exams will be written and face to face. These exams will be used to evaluate student progress, writing ability, and offer a chance for independent thought.

### **Academic Integrity (Plagiarism):**

I expect all submitted work to be solely your own. In the event that you use someone else's ideas or information, or if you use wording that is not your own, you **MUST** provide a citation with a consistent style (MLA, Chicago, APA, Harvard, etc.). Representing someone else's work as your own is plagiarism and is a breach of academic integrity. (When in doubt, cite!) Plagiarism will automatically receive an F on the assignment, which includes the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Depending on the severity, the student may possibly fail the course. Repeat offenders will be referred to the department and faculty disciplinary committees.

To encourage academic honesty and communication, all writing will be submitted through <http://www.turnitin.com/>

**Schedule of Readings:**

**Week 1 Feb 12 & 14: Medieval or Modern, Renaissance or Early Modern?**

Framing the Renaissance: Introduction to English Literature (Broadview Anthology)

**Suggested Readings:** Burckhardt, Jacob. *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*. New York: Penguin, 1860/1990;

**Week 2 Feb 19 & 21: Humanism**

Francesco Petrararch, "The Ascent of Mont Ventoux" *Epistolae familiares* (ca. 1350)

**Suggested Readings:** *The Italian Renaissance Reader*. Eds. Julia Conway Bondanella and Mark Musa. New York: A Meridian Book, 1987

**Week 3 Feb 26 & 28: Courtier Culture**

Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtier* (1528/1561)

Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtier* (Cont.)

**Suggested Readings:** Stephen Greenblatt. *Renaissance Self-Fashioning*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.

**Week 4 March 4 & 6: Lyric Poetry**

Thomas Wyatt, "Unstable Dream", "They flee from me", and others

Henry Howard, "Set me Whereas", "W. Resteth Here", and others

**Suggested Readings:** Kennedy, William J. *The Site of Petrarchism: Early Modern National Sentiment in Italy, France, and England*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.

**Week 5 March 11 & 13: Lyric Poetry (cont.)**

Philip Sidney, from *Astrophel and Stella* (1591)

Philip Sidney, from *Astrophel and Stella* (cont.)

**Suggested Readings:** Alexander, Gavin, 'Lyric After Sidney', *Writing after Sidney: The Literary Response to Sir Philip Sidney 1586-1640* (Oxford, 2006/2010).

**Week 6 March 18 & 20: Religion, Ritual, & Reformation (Mar 20 & 22)**

William Tyndale, *On Scriptural Interpretation* (1528)

**Suggested Readings:** Watts, Tessa. *Cheap Print and Popular Piety, 1550–1640*. Cambridge, University of Cambridge Press, 1993. Scriber, R.W. *For the Sake of the Simple Folk: Popular Propaganda for the German Reformation*. New York: Cambridge Press, 1981.

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### **First Close Reading Due**

#### **Week 7 March 25 & 27: Dramatic Poetry**

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, acts 1-2 (A-text) (1592)

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, acts 3-4 (A-text)

**Suggested Readings:** Daston, Lorraine & Katherine Park. *Wonders and the Order of Nature: 1150-1750*. New York: Zone, 1998.

#### **Week 8 April 1 & 3: Representing the Preternatural and Contranatural**

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, act 3-4 (A-text)

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, act 5 (A-text)

**Suggested Readings:** Honan, Park. *Christopher Marlowe Poet and Spy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

### **MIDTERM EXAM**

#### **Spring Break (April 8-12)**

#### **Week 9 April 15 & 17: Women Words**

Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603): First Speech at Hatfield, Response to the Ambassador of Poland; The “Golden” Farewell Speech; Isabella Whitney (1566-1600): “An Order Prescribed”; “The Admonition by the Author”.

**Suggested Readings:** Daybell, James. “Gender, Obedience, and Authority in Sixteenth-Century Women’s Letters.” *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2010, pp. 49–67. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/27867637](http://www.jstor.org/stable/27867637). Felker, Michael. *The Poems of Isabella Whitney: A Critical Edition*. Doctoral Dissertation, Texas Tech University, 1990.

#### **Week 10 April 22 & 24: Short Literature**

Erasmus, Introduction to *Adages* (1536)

**Suggested Readings:** Phillips, Margaret Mann. *The Adages of Erasmus*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1964.

#### **Week 11 April 29 & May 1: Mock Epic**

Francois Rabelais, *The Life of Gargantua & Pantagruel* (Selections, Book I-IV) (published 1532-1564)

**May 1 (No Class)**

**Suggested Readings:** Bakhtin, Mikhail. *Rabelais and His World*. Bloomington: Indiana

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University Press, 1984.

**Week 12 May 6 & 8: A New Humanism**

Francis Bacon, "Preface, Book I.I-II; Preface, Book II.1" from *Advancement of Learning* (1605)

**Second Close Reading Due**

**Suggested Readings:** Josephson-Storm, Jason. *The Myth of Disenchantment: Magic, Modernity, and the Birth of the Human Sciences*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.

**Week 13 May 13 & 15: Seventeenth Century Poetry**

John Donne, "The Ecstasy," "The Relic"

John Donne, "Show me deare Christ", *Devotions* (17)

**Suggested Readings:** *Seventeenth Century British Poetry: 1603-1660*. Eds John Rumrich and Gregory Chaplin. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.