

## EL 202: The English Renaissance

Tuesday 15-16:00, Friday 15-17:00

### Course Objectives:

Whereas the term “Renaissance” designates a variety of intellectual, cultural and political movements that occurred across the European continent from the 14th to the 17th centuries, the English Renaissance 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. Today, scholars note that these developments sowed the seeds of what would eventually be termed the “modern” world; thus, the 16th century is often also referred to as the “early modern” period in English history. In this course, our goal will be to trace the key political, cultural and artistic transformations of the early modern English world, while paying close attention to continuities with medieval tradition. Throughout, we will place our literary texts in conversation with different genres of prose writing and examples of visual culture.

Students will be required to complete readings and assignments and attend class and participate. Students must attend 75% of all class hours. If you fail to meet this attendance requirement, you will not be admitted to the Final Exam. In lieu of a final exam, students will write a term paper due at the end of the semester.

### Texts

The course packet will be available at TBA. *Dr. Faustus* will be available at Pandora Bookstore.

### Evaluations Requirements:

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes and Assignments	30%
Midterm	30%
Final Paper	30%

### Schedule of Readings:

Weeks	Dates	Topics	Texts
<b>Renaissance Humanism: Introduction to Early Modern World</b>			
Week 1	Feb. 10	Introduction	
	Feb. 13	Humanism	Petrarch, “The Ascent of Mont Ventoux” <i>Epistolae familiares</i>
<b>The Court, Conduct &amp; Courtesy Books</b>			
Week 2	Feb. 17	Appearance of <i>Grace</i>	Sir Thomas Hoby, <i>from</i> Book IV, <i>The Courtier</i>
	Feb. 20	The Anxiety of Appearance	Friedrich Dedekind, Book I, <i>The School of Slovenry</i>
<b>Universities and Private Education</b>			
Week 3	Feb. 24	Discipline	Roger Ascham, <i>from</i> Book I, <i>The Scholemaster</i>
	Feb 27	Discipline/Typography	Roger Ascham, <i>The Schoolmaster</i> (cont.) George Wither, <i>Emblemes</i>
<b>Petrarch &amp; Renaissance Lyric</b>			
Week 4	Mar. 3	Petrarchan Tradition	Thomas Wyatt, “Unstable Dream”, “They flee from me” Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, “Set me whereas the sonne”, “W. Resteth Here”
	Mar. 6	Sonnet Cycle	Philip Sidney, <i>from Astrophel and Stella</i> (3,15,71,106)

<b>Religious Conflicts</b>			
Week 5	Mar. 10	Contra hermeneutics & Religious Reforms	William Tyndale, <i>On Scriptural Interpretation</i>
	Mar. 13	Religious Reforms	“Ceremonies” & “Matins and Evesongs” <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>
<b>Media, Magic, &amp; Hermeticism</b>			
Week 6	Mar. 17	The Preternatural and Contranatural	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Dr Faustus</i>
	Mar. 20	The Preternatural and Contranatural	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Dr Faustus</i>
Week 7	Mar. 24	The Preternatural and Contranatural	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Dr Faustus</i>
	Mar. 27	The Preternatural and Contranatural	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Dr Faustus</i>
<b>Women’s Duties, Women’s Words</b>			
<b>Midterm (outside of class)</b>			
Week 8	Mar. 31	Women's Education	Juan Luis Vives, <i>The Education of a Christian Woman</i> Chapter 1 & 2: “On the instruction of young girls”
	Apr. 2	Public Work, Private Work	Isabella Whitney “An Order Prescribed” “The Admonition by the Author”  Queen Elizabeth First Speech at Hatfield (for “body politic” idea) Response to the Ambassador of Poland (on her humanistic training) The “Golden” Farewell Speech
<b>Political Philosophy</b>			
Week 9	Apr. 7	Maps & Geographies	The Globe: Ptolemy, Piri Reis, Portuguese Explorers, Martin Waldseemüller The Universe: Nicolas Copernicus, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei
	Apr. 10	Classicism	Thomas More, “Book I” <i>Utopia</i>
<b>Political Philosophy</b>			
Week 10	Apr. 14	War & Contracts	Thomas Hobbes, “Ch. 13 & 14” <i>Leviathan</i>
	Apr. 17	Divine Truth or Social contract?	Francis Bacon, “Of Truth” <i>Essays</i>
Week 11	<b>Apr. 20-24: Spring Break</b>		
<b>The Old World meets New</b>			
Week 12	Apr. 28	Encounters with the Other	Walter Raleigh, “The Discovery of Guiana”
	<b>May 1: Labor Day Holiday</b>		
<b>17th century poetry</b>			
Week 13	May 5	Body & Soul	John Donne, “the Ecstasy,” “The Relic”
	May 8	Religious Meditations	John Donne, “Show me deare Christ”, <i>Devotions</i> (17)
Week 14	May 12	TBA	

