The English Renaissance:
Renaissance Bodies: A Poetics of Pleasure, Pain

Instructor: Jameson Kismet Bell
Email: j.kismetbell@boun.edu.tr
Course Schedule:
Office: TB440
Office hours: By appointment

Course Objectives:

Combining the terms “renaissance” and “bodies” allow us to explore a variety of ways in which material bodies became the focus of literary attention between the 14th and 17th centuries. From the rituals of the court to the backstreets of growing cities, bodies were performed and represented in increasingly ceremonial and grotesque manners. In this course, our goal will be to trace the key political, religious, cultural and literary transformations of the body in the early modern English world, while paying close attention to continuities with medieval and broader European traditions. Throughout, we will place our literary texts in conversation with different genres of prose writing and examples of visual culture.

Required and Suggested Texts:

Required reading: Course pack available on moodle. Other information will be shared on moodle or my website, www.jamesonkismetbell.com
Background information, lectures, images, and other resources will be available online.
Grade Structure and Scale:

Attendance (Lectures), Weekly Assignments, Quizzes/Task Completion 30%
Close Readings 20%
Midterm Essay 25%
Final Essay 25%

Grading Scale: THE SPRING (COVID-19) SEMESTER Per Senate decision on Saturday, April 4, 2020, students will have the option of receiving a letter grade, Pass/Fail, drop, or Leave of Absence.

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 merited a passing grade.

FF 59-0: Fail.
Expectations

**Writing:** Short close reading essays will allow for further exploration of topics found in readings and lectures. Grades will be between 1 (low) and 5 (excellent). Those who exceed the expectations can receive a 6 or 7. Essays will be submitted using Turnitin.com: [http://www.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/](http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/)) or the YADYOK website ([http://www.yadyok.boun.edu.tr/index.htm](http://www.yadyok.boun.edu.tr/index.htm)) for help.

**You can also visit me in office hours.**

**Attendance:** We will attempt to conduct all lectures during the scheduled time. However, occasionally we will have use video/recorded lectures available on Moodle. Please communicate any problems you have early.

**Task Completion:** Weekly tasks will be oriented toward engaging with literary texts through the new online distance format. This means engaging with Slack, short questions, and answer, as well as discussion.

**Midterm & Final Essays:** Since students have access to works as well as the internet, Midterm and final essays will replace exams. These 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, 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. Depending on the severity, 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/](http://www.turnitin.com/).
Schedule of Readings:

**Week 1: Medieval, Renaissance or Early Modern Body**
Introduction
Framing the body: Introduction to English Literature (Longman Anthology)

Suggested Readings:

**Week 2: A Courtly Body: Shaping and Un-shaping the Surface**
Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtier*
Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtier* (Cont.)

Suggested Readings:

**Week 3: Lyrical Bodies**
Petrarchan Tradition: Thomas Wyatt, “Unstable Dream”, “They flee from me”, and others
Henry Howard, “Set me Whereas”, “W. Resteth Here”, and others

Suggested Readings:

**Week 4: Lyrical Bodies**
Philip Sidney, from *Astrophel and Stella*
Philip Sidney, from *Astrophel and Stella* (cont.)

Suggested Readings:

**Week 5: Religion, Ritual, and Paper Bodies**
William Tyndale, *On Scriptural Interpretation*
*Book of Common Prayer* “Ceremonies” & “Matins and Evesongs”

Suggested Readings:
Week 6: Representing the Preternatural and Contranatural
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, acts 1-2 (A-text)
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, acts 3-4 (A-text)

Suggested Readings:

Spring Break

Week 7: Representing the Preternatural and Contranatural
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, act 3-4 (A-text)
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, act 5 (A-text)

Suggested Readings:

MIDTERM ESSAY

Week 8: Education

Week 9: Women’s Bodies, Women’s Words
Isabella Whitney: “An Order Prescribed”; “The Admonition by the Author”; Queen Elizabeth: First Speech at Hatfield, Response to the Ambassador of Poland; The “Golden” Farewell Speech

Suggested Readings:

Week 10: The Pleasure of Transgression & Corporeal Curiosities
Francois Rabelais, *The Life of Gargantua & Pantagruel* (Book I)
Francois Rabelais, *The Life of Gargantua & Pantagruel* (Book IV)

Suggested Readings:

Week 11: Material Knowledge
Francis Bacon, “‘Preface, Book I.II, Book II.I’” from *Advancement of Learning*.
Francis Bacon, “Of Truth” *Essays*
Suggested Readings:

Week 12: Metaphysical Bodies
John Donne, “The Ecstasy” “The Relic”
John Donne, “Show me deare Christ”, Devotions (17)

Suggested Readings:

Week 13: Breaking the skin: A Journey into the Body
Edmund Spencer, The Faerie Queene (selections) (1590)
Phineas Fletcher, Purple Island (selections) (1632).

Suggested Readings: