

Draft

EL 202.02: The English Renaissance

A Poetics of Renaissance Bodies

Instructor: Jameson Kismet Bell

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Course Schedule: M 10-11:50; W 14-14:50

Location: M TB 415; M 2231

Office: TB440

Office hours: By appointment. Please email.

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, noble, and grotesque manners. In this course, our goal will be to trace representations of key political, religious, cultural, gender, 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

Suggested reading: *The English Renaissance: A Tribute to Professor Cevza Sevgen*. Istanbul: BU Press, 2013.

Background information, lectures, images, and other resources will be available on my website.

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Grade Structure and Scale:

Attendance (Lectures), Quizzes, Participation 10%

Close Readings 30%

Midterm Essay 30%

Final Essay 30%

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. 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/>

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 Essays: 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. 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/>

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Schedule of Readings:

Week 1: Medieval, Renaissance or Early Modern Body (Feb 13 & 15)

Introduction Framing the body: Introduction to English Literature (Longman Anthology)

Suggested Readings: Burckhardt, Jacob. *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*. New York: Penguin, 1860/1990; T. Lacquer's *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990.

Week 2: A Courtly Body: Shaping and Un-shaping the Surface (Feb 20 & 22)

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

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

Week 3: Lyrical Bodies (Feb 27 & Mar 1)

Petrarchan Tradition: Thomas Wyatt, "Unstable Dream", "They flee from me", and others
Henry Howard, "Set me Whereas", "W. Resteth Here", and others

Suggested Readings: Antikacioglu, Sosi. "The Petrarchan Tradition: From Its Origins to Shakespeare's Sonnets" *The English Renaissance*. Boğaziçi University Press, 2013.

Week 4: Lyrical Bodies (Mar 6 & 8)

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

Suggested Readings: Antikacioglu, Sosi. "The Petrarchan Tradition: From Its Origins to Shakespeare's Sonnets" *The English Renaissance*. Boğaziçi University Press, 2013.

Week 5: Religion, Ritual, and Paper Bodies (Mar 13 & 15)

William Tyndale, *On Scriptural Interpretation*
Book of Common Prayer "Ceremonies" & "Matins and Evesongs"

First Close Reading Due

Suggested Readings: Campana, Joseph. *The Pain of Reformation*. Bronx: Fordham University Press, 2012. 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.

Week 6: Representing the Preternatural and Contranatural (Mar 20 & 22)

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

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 7: Representing the Preternatural and Contranatural (Mar 27 & 29)

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

Week 8: Education (Apr 3 & 5)

Juan Luis Vives, *The Education of a Christian Woman* Chapter I.4: “On the instruction of young girls”

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.

Week 9: Women’s Bodies, Women’s Words (Apr 10 & 12)

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: Bas, Isil. “The Cult of Queen Elizabeth I: A Politics of Legitimacy, Iconography and Representation.” *The English Renaissance*. Boğaziçi University Press, 2013.

Spring Break (April 17-21)

Week 10: The Pleasure of Transgression & Corporeal Curiosities (Apr 24 & 26)

Francois Rabelais, *The Life of Gargantua & Pantagruel* (Book I)

Francois Rabelais, *The Life of Gargantua & Pantagruel* (Books I- IV)

Suggested Readings: Bakhtin, Mikhail. *Rabelais and His World*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984.

Week 11: Material Knowledge (May 1 & 3)

Mon-Labor Day (No Class)

Francis Bacon, “Preface, Book I.I-II, Book II.1” *from Advancement of Learning*.

Second Close Reading Due

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Suggested Readings: Gumpert, Matthew. “Francis Bacon: Knowledge is Power.” *The English Renaissance*. Boğaziçi University Press, 2013. Drew Daniel, *The Melancholy Assemblage: Affect and Epistemology in the English Renaissance*. Bronx: Fordham University Press, 2013.

Week 12: Metaphysical Bodies (May 8 & 10)

John Donne, “The Ecstasy,” “The Relic”
John Donne, “Show me deare Christ”, *Devotions* (17)

Suggested Readings: Mazzari, Louis. ““Batter my heart”: Reformation Literature in Renaissance England.” *The English Renaissance*. Bogazici University Press, 2013. Fortuny, Kim. “John Donne’s Metaphysical Bodies: ‘The Ecstasy.’” *The English Renaissance*. Bogazici University Press, 2013.

Week 13: Breaking the skin: A Journey into the Body (May 15 & 17)

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (selections) (1590)
Phineas Fletcher, *Purple Island* (selections) (1632)

Suggested Readings: Mitchell, Peter. *The Purple Island and Anatomy in Early Seventeenth-century Literature, Philosophy, and Theology*. Madison and Teaneck, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007. Sawday, Johnathan. *The Body Emblazoned: Dissection and the Human Body in Renaissance Culture*. New York: Routledge, 1995.