



上海财经大学

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

中国上海市国定路777号 邮编200433 777 Guoding Road, Shanghai, 200433, China

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2020 Summer Program

ENG 101 English Literature: Renaissance

Course Outline

Term: June 1 – June 26, 2020

Class Hours: 12:00-13:50 (Monday through Friday)

Instructor: Joseph Bowling

Home Institution: University of Wisconsin

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: jdbowling@wisc.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Description:

The Renaissance, French for “rebirth,” was a cultural and literary movement in Europe from roughly 1500-1700. Across these two centuries, England experienced monumental upheavals, especially in education, politics, and religion, that continue to shape Western culture. This course provides an introduction to English Renaissance writers and the world that shaped their writing. We will study the key ideas, literary genres and terms, and literary techniques of the English Renaissance.

Course Objectives:

This course provides students an understanding of the key ideas and historical significance of English Renaissance literature. The course introduces students to the important genres of Renaissance literature and provides important terminology for studying Renaissance literature.

Required Textbooks:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Century, tenth edition, edited by Stephen Greenblatt.

Grading & Evaluation:

Attendance, participation, informal writing:	15%
Short assignment 1: Analysis of Sidney’s <i>Apology</i>	20%
Short assignment 2: Analysis of the Sonnet form	20%
Short assignment 3: Analysis of dramatic monologue	20%



Final Presentation: Historical-literary analysis 25%

Course Schedule

Week1

Humanism, Reformation, Colonialism

- During this first week, we will approach Renaissance literature by studying the key historical developments of the sixteenth century that influenced English writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. We will begin with humanism, a revolutionary new educational philosophy premised upon the study of ancient Greek and Roman authors. Next, we turn to the Reformation, the Protestant break with Catholicism that sparked the spread of violence and revolt across the European Continent, with England becoming the first kingdom to declare itself a Protestant nation. Finally, the discovery and colonization of the Americas posed a crisis of worldview to European writers who assumed only Europe, Africa, and Asia existed. To see how these developments influenced the key ideas of English Renaissance literature, we will study Sir Thomas More's *Utopia* and Sir Philip Sidney's *Apology for Poetry*.

Week2

The sonnet and the epic

- This week we will study the two most important genres of poetry written by Renaissance writers. We will begin with the sonnet, one of the most influential forms developed during the Renaissance. We will trace its development from Petrarch, to Sir Philip Sidney, to Edmund Spenser, to William Shakespeare, and finally to John Milton. If the sonnet expresses personal, romantic feeling, then the epic—the second genre we will study this week—expresses the opposite. The epic follows the deeds of a hero who acts as the representative of a nation. We will study book 1 of Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*.

Week3

The stage

- William Shakespeare is the most recognizable name in English literature. We will turn our attention to the medium—the stage—for which Shakespeare wrote his plays. We will study how humanism, the Reformation, and colonialism and the genres of romantic poetry and epic influenced Shakespeare's plays. We will read his comedy *Twelfth Night*, which stages the follies of romantic love and parodies the excess of Protestant morality. We will then turn to his tragedy *Othello*, which allows us to study how ideas about race and nationality were in flux during this age of colonialism.

Week4

The seventeenth century

- England underwent tumultuous, violent changes during the seventeenth century. Religious and political conflicts led to what was previously unthinkable: Parliament finding the monarch, Charles I, guilty of treason and sentencing him to execution. To understand how this could have happened and its effect on Renaissance literature, we will read the religious poetry of John



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Donne and George Herbert as well as selections from John Milton's magisterial *Paradise Lost*—the last great work of Renaissance literature.