English 3341.001: Literature of the English Renaissance
Fall, 2013
T/TR 12:30-1:45, CI-112

Instructor: Dr. Benedict Whalen
Office: Faculty Center 255
Office Hours: M: 12:30-1:30; T/TR: 10:00-12:00
Email: To Be Determined
Office Phone: To Be Determined

Required Materials

Course Description
In this course, we will study an assortment of the major works of the Renaissance. Our reading selection will include both prose and poetry, epic and lyric, and we will discuss several important themes in the literature of the period, including amorous, political, and spiritual matters. We will examine aspects of the literary tradition inherited by these authors, and the ways in which they worked within, developed, or broke from such tradition. We will also see some of the ways in which these works reflect their historical circumstances, including religious, political, philosophical, and scientific revolutions.
Student Learning Objectives

Students must be able to examine Renaissance poetry in terms of its formal elements (rhyme, meter, and poetic structures), accurately identify quotations from Renaissance literature, complete two papers in which they demonstrate their understanding of the material and ability to develop sophisticated arguments about literature, and complete two exams in which students demonstrate a broad but detailed familiarity with the literature of the Renaissance.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Daily Reading Quizzes: 15%
- Paper 1: 15%
- Paper 2: 25%
- Mid Term Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 20%

***Meaning of Grades:

- A=Excellent
- B=Above Average
- C=Average
- D=Below Average
- F=Unacceptable

Nota Bene: Grades are something you earn, something you work up to. Grades are not something you fall from. What does this mean? Do not ask me what took your grade down; rather, ask what you can do to earn a yet higher grade. The latter question does not presuppose that you started with an “A” and fell from it, whereas the former question does. You must earn each increment in the grading scale aside from an “F”.

Participation

This class will consist of a mixture of discussion and lecture. Active and general participation in the discussions is essential for their success. Consequently, 10% of the overall grade for this class is determined by such participation. If you never or only seldom join in the
conversation, the highest possible grade you could get is a B+. Keep this in mind as you prepare for class, and come prepared to raise questions and share your thoughts.

**Attendance Policy**

You are allowed three free absences. A fourth absence will result in your final grade being deducted by a half letter grade (so, for example, a “B” becomes a “B-”). A fifth absence results in failure of the course. Please note that I do not make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. This means that you never need to give me an excuse; there is no need for doctor’s notes, mechanic’s notes, veterinary notes, etc. Save your free absences for the unexpected/unavoidable problems that arise over the course of the semester. Two late arrivals or early departures constitute an absence.

Please note that if you miss class, you may not make up the quiz. Similarly, if you are late to class, you may not make up the quiz. If you arrive late to class while the quiz is being taken, you are free to take it, but will have no extra time given to you. So arrive at class punctually, and do not ask me if you can make up a quiz.

For each class period that an assignment is late, your final grade on that assignment will drop one letter grade. I do not grant extensions, so plan ahead, and complete your work early in case there is an unforeseen problem.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the submission of another’s work as your own. If you plagiarize, which includes cheating on a quiz, you will fail the entire course. There are no exceptions to this rule (even if you promise that it was an accident…so be careful, and always provide documentation as you are writing). If you are ever in doubt about a citation, or whether something must be cited, err on the side of caution, and provide the citation. You may also always email me if you are confused.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

**Academic Advising:**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan,
which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Reminder to English Majors**

As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

**Assignments** (The assignments and readings are due on the date that they are listed next to.)

Thursday, Sept. 5: Introduction, Syllabus,

Tuesday, Sept. 10: [Sir Thomas More](#), *Utopia*, pp. 569-587 (To 2nd paragraph)

Thursday, Sept. 12: [Sir Thomas More](#), *Utopia*, pp. 587-597 (To the end of Book 1)

Tuesday, Sept. 17: [Sir Thomas More](#), *Utopia*, pp. 597-623 (To the “Slaves” section)

Thursday, Sept. 19: [Sir Thomas More](#), *Utopia*, pp. 623-646

Tuesday, Sept. 24: [John Skelton](#): Mannerly Margery Milk and Ale; With lullay lullay, like a child; [Sir Thomas Wyatt](#) (the elder): Whoso list to hunt; Farewell, Love; I find no peace; My galley; Divers doth use; What vaileth truth?; They Flee from me; My lute, awake!; Blame not my lute; Who list his wealth and ease retain.

Thursday, Sept. 26: [Edmund Spenser](#): *Amoretti* (all) and *Epithalamion* (pp. 985-999)

Tuesday, Oct. 1: [Sir Philip Sidney](#): *From Astrophil and Stella*: 1, 2, 5, 7, 20, 34, 106; [Mary (Sidney) Herbert](#), Countess of Pembroke: Psalm 52 and Psalm 139.
Thursday, Oct. 3: Christopher Marlowe: The Passionate Shepherd to His Love; Sir Walter Ralegh: only the poems; Mary Wroth: From Pamphilia to Amphilanthus (all)

Tuesday, Oct. 8: William Shakespeare: From Sonnets: 1, 15, 18, 29, 55, 60, 65, 73, 94, 116, 130

Thursday, Oct. 10: Christopher Marlowe: Hero and Leander

Tuesday, Oct. 15: Christopher Marlowe: Doctor Faustus (Prologue and Scenes 1-5)

Thursday, Oct. 17: Christopher Marlowe: Doctor Faustus (Scenes 6-13 and Epilogue)

Tuesday, Oct. 22: Ben Jonson: Volpone (Acts 1-3)

Thursday, Oct. 24: Ben Jonson: Volpone (Acts 4-5)

Tuesday, Oct. 29: Paper 1 Due in Class. Presentation of Theses. Review for Exam.

Thursday, Oct. 31: Mid-term Exam

Tuesday, Nov. 5: John Donne: From Songs and Sonnets; From Holy Sonnets; Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward.

Thursday, Nov. 7: Robert Herrick: Delight in Disorder, Corinna’s Going A-Maying, To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time; Richard Lovelace: To Lucasta, Going to the Wars; Andrew Marvell: The Nymph Complaining for the Death of Her Fawn, To His Coy Mistress, The Garden

Tuesday, Nov. 12: George Herbert: Easter Wings, Prayer (1), The Collar, The Pulley; Henry Vaughan: The World, They are All Gone into the World of Light; John Milton: When I Consider How My Light is Spent, Methought I Saw My Late Espoused Saint

Thursday, Nov. 14: John Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 1-2

Tuesday, Nov. 19: John Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 3-4

Thursday, Nov. 21: John Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 5-6

Tuesday, Nov. 26: John Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 7-8

Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving. No Class.

Tuesday, Dec. 3: John Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 9-10

Thursday, Dec. 5: John Milton: Paradise Lost, Books 11-12

Tuesday, Dec. 10: Paper 2 Due in Class. Presentation of Theses. Review for Final Exam

Thursday, Dec. 12: Final Exams

Tuesday, Dec. 17: Final Exams

***This schedule is subject to revision and change.