

Southeast Missouri State University

Department of English

Course No. LI 525

Title of Course English Drama before 1800

Revision

New x

- I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course: A study of English drama from Medieval, Sixteenth-Century, Seventeenth-Century, Restoration and Eighteen-Century dramatists, excluding Shakespeare. (3 cr.)
- II. Prerequisites: EN140 or equivalent and any 200 level literature course.
- III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:
  - A. To offer for study a range of early English drama from Medieval, Sixteenth-Century, Seventeenth-Century, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century dramatists.
  - B. To provide experiences in close reading and analysis
  - C. To provide writing experiences which combine close reading with individual interpretation and which also provide opportunities for synthesis of both primary and critical readings
  - D. To provide opportunities for original interpretations and research
- IV. Expectations of Students:
  - A. To come prepared to discuss passages, scenes, and questions that are raised in their readings
  - B. To complete weekly journal responses
  - C. To demonstrate the ability to do literary research and to choose sources wisely
  - D. To produce their own interpretation of texts through close reading
  - E. To integrate and synthesize their own interpretations with other critical sources
  - G. To attend class regularly and to complete satisfactorily all work in the course
  - H. To take a midterm and a final examination
- V. Course Content or Outline may vary, but will include some of the following:
  1. Medieval Drama -- 12 hours
    - The Wakefield Master, *The Second Shepherd's Play*
    - Anonymous, *Everyman*
    - Anonymous, *Mankind*
    - Anonymous, *The Castle of Perseverance*
  2. Sixteenth Century Drama - 12 hours
    - Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
    - Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Ben Jonson, *Volpone*  
Anonymous, *Arden of Faversham*  
Thomas Dekker, *The Shoemakers' Holiday*

3. Seventeenth Century Drama - 9 hours  
Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling*  
John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*  
Elizabeth Carey, *The Tragedy of Miriam*  
Thomas Heywood, *A Woman Killed with Kindness*
4. Restoration Drama - 6 hours  
John Dryden, *Marriage à la Mode*  
Margaret Cavandish, *The Convent of Pleasure*  
Aphra Behn, *The Rover*  
William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*  
William Congreve, *The Way of the World*
5. Eighteenth-Century Drama - 6 hours  
John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*  
Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*  
Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*

VI. Textbooks:

There is no comprehensive anthology available of English playwrights before 1800. The rental text for this course will be *Renaissance Drama: An Anthology of Plays and Entertainments*, ed. Arthur Kinney, Blackwell, 2000. Other texts used in the course will be available for purchase in the University Bookstore.

VI. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A.	One 3-5 page close reading analysis of a primary text*	10%
B.	One eight-page critically researched, interpretive essay**	20%
C.	Reader response journal	10%
D.	Midterm examination	25%
E.	Final examination	25%
F.	Class Participation	10%

\* Students seeking graduate credit for the course will be expected to write 5-7 pages for this assignment.

\*\* Students seeking graduate credit for the course will be expected to write 12-15 pages for this assignment as well as use more secondary sources.