

Spring 2-1-2018

LIT 236L.80: Literature History: European Renaissance/Honors

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The European Renaissance (LIT 236.80), Spring 2018

This course offers brief introductions to important writers of the European Renaissance, focusing especially on English-language writings but also sampling translations of works written in Italian, French, Latin, and Spanish. We will look at ways in which these texts from the 1300s through the mid-1600s both look back to classical antiquity and anticipate the modern age in which we are living today.

Class meetings

MWF 12:00-12:50, in DHC 120.

Instructor

John Hunt (john.hunt@mso.umt.edu).

Office hours

Monday 1:30-3:30, and by appointment, in LA 127.

There are no required textbook purchases for this class. With few exceptions we will be reading short excerpts of all works, and class readings will be made available on Moodle as PDFs. With few exceptions (e.g., critical introductions and annotations) you should print off the readings, bring the paper copies to class, and take notes on them.

Schedule of assignments

Week One (Jan. 22-26)

Monday: Introduction to the Renaissance

Wednesday: Dante, *Inferno*

Friday: Montaigne, *Essays*

Week Two (Jan. 29-Feb. 2)

Monday: Pico, *Oration on the Dignity of Man* and Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Wednesday: Sidney, *An Apology for Poetry*

Friday: Browne, *Religio Medici*

Week Three (Feb. 5-9)

Monday: Donne, *The Sun Rising* and *The Anniversary*

Wednesday: Marvell, *On a Drop of Dew* and *Dialogue between the Soul and Body*

Friday: Marvell, *The Garden*

Week Four (Feb. 12-16)

Monday: Boccaccio, *Decameron*

Wednesday: Donne, *The Flea* and Marvell, *To His Coy Mistress*

Friday: Marlowe, *Hero and Leander* (**paper due** today)

(No class on Monday, Feb. 19: Presidents Day.)

Week Five (Feb. 21-23)

Wednesday: Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

Friday: Shakespeare, scenes

Week Six (Feb. 26-March 2)

Monday: Erasmus, *Free Will* and Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*
Wednesday: Donne and Herbert, poems
Friday: Herbert, poems

Week Seven (March 5-9)

Monday: Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Wednesday: More, *Utopia*
Friday: More, *Utopia*

Week Eight (March 12-16)

Monday: Shakespeare, scenes
Wednesday: Milton, *Areopagitica*
Friday: Hobbes, *Leviathan* and Marvell, *An Horatian Ode* (**paper due today**)

Week Nine (March 19-23)

Monday: Petrarch and Wyatt, poems
Wednesday: Sidney and Wroth, poems
Friday: Shakespeare, sonnets

(No class March 26-30: Spring Break)

Week Ten (April 2-6)

Monday: Donne, poems
Wednesday: Galileo, *The Two Chief World Systems*
Friday: Galileo, *The Two Chief World Systems*

Week Eleven (April 9-13)

Monday: Bacon, *Novum Organum*
Wednesday: Montaigne, *Apology for Raymond Sebond*
Friday: Descartes, *Meditations*

Week Twelve (April 16-20)

Monday: Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (**paper due today**)
Wednesday: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
Friday: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*

Week Thirteen (April 23-27)

Monday: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*
Wednesday: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*
Friday: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*

Week Fourteen (April 30-May 4)

Monday: Milton, *Paradise Lost*
Wednesday: Milton, *Paradise Lost*
Friday: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (**revision due today**)

Week Fifteen: finals week hour Friday, May 11, 10:10-12:10.

Screens

Please stay off your cell phones, laptops and tablets during class, except when you want to look up something relevant to what we are discussing.

Readings

You're responsible for completing each day's reading by class time on the date listed on the syllabus. We may occasionally have unannounced quizzes.

Attendance

Please come to class every day, unless you are ill or encounter an emergency, in which case email me before class or very soon afterward. If you have more than three unexcused absences, it will lower your course grade.

You will be graded at the end of the semester on how regularly and well you participate in the class. There are many ways to do this: raising questions in class; answering questions in class; trying out your thoughts in class; the same three things on the weekly Moodle forums; talking to me outside of class; and perhaps some others I'm not thinking of. I want everyone to work toward confidently exploring responses to the class texts in informal conversation as well as in formal essays. I recognize that some of you may feel hesitant about talking in class—I did too at your age—so the Moodle forums exist to give you an alternative. You can write more in them as the semester goes on, just as you can speak at greater length in class.

Papers

You're required to write three papers, each 5-6 pp. long, and a revision of one of those papers. The first three papers will be graded and returned with detailed comments on the argument and the writing. The revision will receive only a brief final comment about your success in rethinking the argument and improving the writing, along with a grade that could be *either higher or lower* than your original grade. All papers should be emailed to me as attachments in Word format (or Pages, if that's what you use, but please no PDFs, since I will have to convert them before I can mark them). I will return the papers the same way, i.e. electronically.

Grading

30% participation
20% first paper
20% second paper
20% third paper
10% revision

Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations. Please speak with me privately at the beginning of the semester about any accommodations you need, and be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process.

Plagiarism

Your papers must be solely your own work and written solely for this course. While all the ideas discussed in our classroom are common property, unacknowledged use of others' written work, whether paraphrased or quoted, constitutes plagiarism, which is an affront to the fundamental values of an academic institution. You must acknowledge, by citation of name, title, and source, any published work that has influenced your thinking, using established academic guidelines for documentation. Violating this policy subjects you to university procedures spelled out in the Student Conduct Code.

Academic deadlines

Please consult the university's official dates and deadlines calendar, which I have loaded on our Moodle shell as a PDF.