

Renaissance Poetry and Prose

DR. DAVID WILSON-OKAMURA ENGLISH 4050 AUT. 2010 EAST CAROLINA UNIV.

- Aug. 25 W The 1590s: English's Great Decade
27 F SPENSER, *Faerie Queene* (1590): letter to Raleigh and 2.12 (= book 2, canto 12)
30 M *Faerie Queene* 3.proem, 1 (Malecasta)
- Sept. 1 W *Faerie Queene* 3.2–3 (Britomart's history)
3 F *Faerie Queene* 3.4–5 (Florimell, Marinell; Belphoebe and Timias)
6 M Labor Day holiday
7 T *Faerie Queene* 3.6 (the Garden of Adonis)
8 W *Faerie Queene* 3.7–8 (Florimell's flight; the false Florimell)
10 F *Faerie Queene* 3.9–10 (Helenore and Malbecco)
13 M *Faerie Queene* 3.11–12 (House of Busyrane)
15 W MARLOWE, *Hero and Leander* (c. 1593): dedication to Walsingham, sestiad I
17 F *Hero and Leander*, sestiad II
20 M SHAKESPEARE, *Venus and Adonis* (1593): dedication to Southampton, ll. 1–709
22 W *Venus and Adonis*, ll. 710–1194 (end)
24 F CHAPMAN, continuation of *Hero and Leander* (1598): dedication to Lady Walsingham and sestiads III and IV
27 M Continuation of *Hero and Leander*, sestiads V and VI
29 W SPENSER, *Amoretti* (1595): dedication to Robart Needham (Google it) and sonnets 1–18
- Oct. 1 F *Amoretti*, 19–36
4 M *Amoretti*, 37–54
6 W *Amoretti*, 54–72
8 F *Amoretti*, 73–89
11 M Fall Break
13 W *Epithalamion* (1595; almost the only great happy poem in the English language)
15 F SHAKESPEARE, *Sonnets* (c. 1591–1609): dedication “To the only begetter” and sonnets 1–19 (what Giroux 1982 calls “The ‘Marriage’ Poems”)
18 M *Sonnets* 18–28 (“First Love”)
20 W *Sonnets* 29–39 (“My Outcast State”)
22 F *Sonnets* 40–52 (“Double Betrayal”)
25 M *Sonnets* 53–70 (“‘Who Are You?’ Series”)
27 W *Sonnets* 71–77 (“The Older to the Younger”)
29 F *Sonnets* 78–86 (“The Rival Poets”)
- Nov. 1 M *Sonnets* 87–96 (“Departure”)
3 W *Sonnets* 97–108 (“Return”)
5 F *Sonnets* 109–12 (“‘Vulgar Scandal’ Quartet”)
8 M *Sonnets* 113–26 (“I Am That I Am”)
10 W *Sonnets* 127–40 (The Dark Mistress)
12 F *Sonnets* 141–54 (The Dark Mistress [cont.] and “The ‘Bath’ Sonnets” [153–54])

- 15 M DONNE (lyrics unprinted till 1633), “The Good-Morrow,” “Song (Go and catch a falling star),” “Woman’s Constancy,” “The Sun Rising,” “The Indifferent,” “Break of Day”; cf. Ovid, *Elegies* 1.13, 2.4 (trans. Marlowe)
- 17 W “The Canonization,” “The Anniversary,” “Lovers’ Infiniteness,” “Confined Love,” “The Flea,” Elegy XIX (“To His Mistress Going to Bed”)
- 19 F “Love’s Usury,” “Love’s Growth,” “Love’s Exchange,” “Love’s Alchemy,” “Love’s Deity,” “Love’s Diet”
- 22 M “Air and Angels,” “Negative Love,” “The Ecstasy”
- 24 W Thanksgiving**
- 26 F Thanksgiving**
- 29 M “A Valediction: Of My Name, in the Window,” “A Valediction: Of the Book,” “A Valediction: Of Weeping,” “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”
- Dec. 1 W “The Legacy,” “A Fever,” “The Funeral,” “The Relic,” “A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy’s Day, Being the Shortest Day”
- 3 F “The Apparition,” “A Jet Ring Sent,” “The Expiration,” “The Computation,” “Farewell to Love,” “A Lecture upon the Shadow,” “Self-Love”
- 6 M Inferences and Conclusions

REQUIRED TEXTS

Donne, John. *The Complete Poetry and Selected Prose*. ISBN 0375757341 (\$17).

Marlowe, Christopher. *The Complete Poems and Translations*. ISBN 0143104950 (\$14).

Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Sonnets and Poems*. ISBN 0199535795 (\$15).

Spenser, Edmund. *Edmund Spenser's Poetry*. ISBN 0393962997 (\$16).

REQUIREMENTS

Written assignments must be typed and are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments delivered after that will receive a lower grade. (For instance, an A- essay that is delivered up to 24 hours late will receive a B+, an A- essay that is delivered between 24 and 48 hours late will receive a B, and so on.)

Reading Quizzes (15%). Each quiz is worth 1 point and there will be 26 quizzes. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. However, because there is an extra (26th) quiz, you can miss one quiz without harming your grade. Think of it as a free pass: you can use it to go to the beach, or you can use it when you’re sick. Because this system is based on numbers, you don’t need to explain why you missed class, just do it: the math will take care of itself, automatically. Of course, you’ll still be responsible for the material discussed in class. But once you’ve used that free pass, it’s gone! Forever! My advice is to save it for when you’re sick or need to attend a wedding.

Recitations (10%). Part of becoming intimate with a poem is learning it by heart. For this course, you will need to memorize and recite two poems. Minimum length: fourteen lines each. Recitations will be given during office hours; I’ll pass around a schedule at the beginning of the semester and after fall break. Grades will be assigned on the following basis: you know the poem, but stumble your way through it = C range; you know the poem letter-perfect, but haven’t done much with pauses, emphasis, tone = B range; you know the poem letter-perfect and interpret it with your voice = A range. Don’t memorize a poem you don’t understand; we’ll probably have a chat afterwards about what it means, so be prepared.

Biweekly Analysis (75%). Every other Monday, you will submit a written analysis of the previous two weeks’ discussion. Because of Labor day, the first analysis will be due Tue., Sept. 7; thereafter, analyses will be due on alternate Mondays, beginning Sept. 20.

What does a good analysis look like? First, it is not the same thing as a response paper. Nor is it a transcript of your class notes turned back into prose. Above all it is not a plot summary. It is a synthesis, rather, of ideas discussed in class. This is a short assignment, so you will not be able to cover everything that we talked about in the previous two weeks. Instead, you will need to decide which were the principal ideas. Organize your writing around those ideas and choose examples to illustrate them.

The use of phrases such as *I think*, *I believe*, and *I feel* is strongly discouraged. You don't need to report who said what, either.

A good analysis will summarize the content of discussion, but it will also evaluate that discussion: for instance, what got left out of our conversation and why does it matter? Don't just say, "We didn't talk about *x*." Say something about *x* and push the conversation forward. As a general rule, two parts analytical summary to one part evaluation is a good balance.

- Length: 900–1,200 words, not including long quotations. When you're done, do a word count (your word processor can do this for you) and write the result on the first page of your paper.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you have trouble with these, I recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin.
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman.

Midterm and Final Exams. There will be no midterm or final exams in this course.

Please don't read, send, or monitor **text messages** in class. Please do turn off your **cell phone ringer** before class begins. **Laptops** might be helpful in some courses, but not this one; if you have one, keep it shut during class.

EXTENSIONS

Everyone gets a two-day extension on two analyses over the course of the semester. I.e., if the paper's due on Monday, you can turn it in on Wednesday with no grade penalty; and you can do that twice. You don't need to get permission ahead of time: when you hand in your paper on Wednesday, just attach a slip of paper that says, "I'm taking my first (or second) extension on this paper." For fairness' sake, no one will be granted a third extension.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas in such a way that they seem like your own. That's cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask me about it before your paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. The penalty for plagiarism is an automatic F for the course, in addition to whatever sanction the University may impose.

ACCOMMODATIONS

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 (Voice/TTY 252-737-1016).

OFFICE HOURS, EMAIL

Office: Bate 2137

Office hours: MWF 11:50–12:30, 1:50–2:50. If you have class during both times, grab me after class or call me on the telephone and we'll set up an appointment. My home number is in the book but, please, no phone calls after 9:00 pm.

Email: Instead of exchanging emails, let's have a conversation. That's what office hours are for.