



HL 2002 Renaissance Literature

Semester 1 (Academic Year 2025–2026)

Course Blog: TBA

Pass for lecture and presentations PPTs: TBA

Course Coordinator: Associate Prof. Jane Wong Yeang Chui

Office: HSS 03-58

Office Hours: TBA

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Course Description

This course introduces major themes and authors in English Renaissance Literature. The works that we will be studying are concerned with Renaissance political traditions and intersections in European intellectual thought. These include the idea of governance and kingship, writing and patronage (and censorship), ethics and philosophy, and religious conflict in early modern England. This course aims to develop a strong foundation of what is arguably the most important historical period in the development of English literature. The materials covered in this course should also encourage students to consider how literary narratives merge with historical discourse to produce meaningful interpretations of English culture in the early modern period.

Important Notes

General Guidelines:

- All students who need to consult during office hours should send an email at least 3 working days ahead of time. Email queries are only acceptable if they do not involve lengthy discussion sessions to avoid miscommunication, instead you should make an appointment to see me in my

office. Please allow at least a day or two for responses to emails (with the exception of weekends and public holidays).

- Office consultation: Please come prepared with questions so that we can address your concerns effectively and efficiently. Out of consideration for your classmates who may also need consultation time, I will limit consultations to about 20 mins for each student.
- I will not attend to group consultations and will see students individually.
- Be sure to arrive on time to class, and if you have to leave early, pls. let me know ahead of time. As usual, pls. be respectful to your classmates and be sure to turn off all electronic devices during lectures and tutorials.
- **All materials** distributed in class and on the course blog are meant to be used for class lectures and discussions only. They are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.
- You are not allowed to record lectures in any form without permission formal permission to do so.

Attendance and Participation:

- If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to check our course blog for updates or announcements that you may have missed.
- If you are absent on the day when an in-class writing assignment is due, you will not be able to make-up for this. Those who are absent for presentations will not have the opportunity to make-up their work in another group's presentation.

Plagiarism, Generative AI, and Late Assignments:

- Plagiarism cases will be subject to university disciplinary action. Please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policies here: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>
- You are not allowed to use any Generative AI platforms for all assignments in this class. Assignments that incorporate any use of generative AI constitutes a form of plagiarism.
- Late assignments: written assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty of half a grade each day (including weekends and holidays); if I do not receive an assignment a week after it is due, you will receive a 0 for the essay.

Blackout Period and Extension Requests

- Blackout Period: the blackout period for extension is **1 week before the assignment deadline**. This means that extension requests made during this period must be supported with documentation **and** a consultation with me to discuss work-in-progress.

Course Assessment:

Presentation	20%
Participation	10%
Critical Response (deadline 16 Sept.)	20%
Final Essay (deadline 11 Nov.)	50%

Required Texts:

Kyd, Thomas. *The Spanish Tragedy*. ISBN: 978-1904271604

Shakespeare, William. *The History of King Lear: The Oxford Shakespeare The History of King Lear*. ISBN: 978-0199535828*

Shakespeare, William. *Henry IV, Part 1* (Penguin Classics). ISBN: 978-0143130208*

Shakespeare, William. *Henry IV, Part 2* (Penguin Classics). ISBN: 978-0143131762*

Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queene, Books Three and Four (Bk. 3 & 4)* (Hackett). ISBN: 978-0872208551

Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus* (Norton Critical Editions). ISBN: 978-0393977547

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost* (Hackett Classics). ISBN: 978-0872207332

***NOTE ON PRESCRIBED TEXTS:**

You are welcome to use your own edition of the texts listed above, however, but sure that you have copies with line numbers (and Act/Scene numbers for the plays).

If you are planning on taking HL 3030 Major Author: Shakespeare in the following semester, you should purchase Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (2002). ISBN: 978-0141000589 instead of separate Shakespeare texts for this class. This text, however, has not been ordered this semester.

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Topic
Week 1 12 Aug.	Introduction (Presentation Sign-up)
Week 2 Romance 19 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i> (Cantos 1–2) *In addition, pls. also read "Letter to Raleigh" which can be found in the same text, on pages 451–454 (If you are using a different version of the book, the "Letter to Raleigh" is normally either at the beginning or the end of the text.)

Week 3 Romance 26 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i> (Cantos 3–7)
Week 4 Governance and Kingship 2 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part I</i> (Film)
Week 5 Governance and Kingship 9 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part II</i>
Week 6 Tragedy 16 Sept.	Thomas Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> Critical Response Deadline
Week 7 Tragedy 23 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i>
Week 8 30 Sept.	Recess
Week 9 Reformation 7 Oct.	Excerpts from John Foxe's <i>Book of Martyrs</i> (on course blog)
Week 10 Reformation 14 Oct.	Christopher Marlowe's <i>Dr. Faustus</i>
Week 11 Religion 21 Oct.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Books I and II)
Week 12 Religion 28 Oct.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Books III –V)
Week 13 4 Nov. Conclusion	Conclusion and Review