

EN3F1-15 Early Modern Drama

26/27

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Teresa Grant

Credit value

15

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will explore the drama of Shakespeare's contemporaries, paying particular attention to the playing conditions of the time which were affected both by the physical resources of the stage and the political context into which these works intervened. We will also take note of early modern literary criticism to discover how playwrights interacted with these ideas in their work. As we read some of the most famous plays of the period, we will develop an understanding of its major dramatic trends, the plays' significance in relation to Shakespeare and to their classical precursors and the ways in which they reflect the political, religious and social concerns of their time.

This module can be paired with EN352 Restoration Drama to make a coherent 30 CATS two-term option which will deal with English drama and its contexts 1574 to 1709

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of the set plays in their political, religious and social contexts

Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of the major dramatic trends of the period 1574-1642

Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of early modern literary and dramatic criticism in theory and practice
Demonstrate engagement with early modern primary sources (via e.g. EEBO) which are not set texts on the module

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1, Medieval England: Robert Green, Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay (c.1589)

Week 2, Central Asia: Christopher Marlowe, Tamburlaine the Great Part 1 (pr. 1590)

Week 3, The Mediterranean: Christopher Marlowe, The Jew of Malta (1592)

Week 4, England: Anon., Arden of Feversham (1592)

Week 5, London: Thomas Dekker, The Shoemaker's Holiday (1599)

Week 6, Reading Week

Week 7, Ancient Judea: Elizabeth Cary, The Tragedy of Mariam (c. 1603-8)

Week 8, Italy: Thomas Middleton, The Revenger's Tragedy (1606)

Week 9, London: Francis Beaumont, The Knight of the Burning Pestle (1607)

Week 10, London: Ben Jonson, The Alchemist (1610)

The coursebook will be English Renaissance Drama: A Norton Anthology, eds Bevington, Engle, Maus and Rasmussen (New York and London, 2002)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of the set plays in their political, religious and social contexts
- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of the major dramatic trends of the period 1574-1642
- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of early modern literary and dramatic criticism in theory and practice
- Demonstrate engagement with early modern primary sources (via e.g. EEBO) which are not set texts on the module

Subject specific skills

A systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of the set plays in their political, religious and social contexts

A systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of the major dramatic trends of the period

1574-1642

A systematic knowledge and coherent understanding of early modern literary and dramatic criticism in theory and practice

Engagement with early modern primary sources (via e.g. EEBO) which are not set texts on the module

Transferable skills

Apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects

Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem

Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading & research.

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Books and learning materials	Coursebook: English Renaissance Drama: A Norton Anthology, eds Bevington, Engle, Maus and Rasmussen (New York and London, 2002)	Student	£34.99

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Assessed essay	70%		Yes (extension)
Free choice of play(s) and topic in consultation with tutor, includes the use of at least 3 primary sources sourced by the student from EEBO, title/subject devised by student.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Extract Question	30%		Yes (extension)
Students will be asked to comment on an extract in the context of early modern drama, not writing a line-by-line commentary but using it to explore the dramatic and theatrical themes and conventions of the early modern stage, with detailed reference to the play from which it comes and AT LEAST one other play.			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback via Tabula and oral feedback in office hours if desired

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 3 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 4 of UENA-QP37 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UENA-Q301 Undergraduate English Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History

- Year 4 of UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year