ENGL 3020 - Renaissance Drama
Course Outline

Course Coordinator
Room: MC125, phone: 49215180
Email: Ros.Smith@newcastle.edu.au

Semester
Semester 1 – 2005

Unit Weighting
10

Teaching Methods
Seminar

Brief Course Description
Studies tragedies by major playwrights of the English Renaissance, including Shakespeare, incorporating consideration of the genre and history of tragedy.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks
Seminar combines lecture material and group discussion

Learning Materials/Texts
Information enclosed

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
(1) demonstrate a detailed knowledge of a number of Renaissance tragedies;
(2) demonstrate an understanding of the genre of tragedy in terms of its formal features and cultural meanings; and
(3) demonstrate an understanding of the sub-genres and persistent themes of tragedy in the period.

Course Content
An intensive study of English Renaissance tragedy, accompanied by study of the early Modern culture from which it sprang and to which it contributed. The Shakespeare tragedies considered will be framed by comparison with examples from other playwrights and by the sub-genres (revenge tragedy, the tragedy of damnation, the tragedy of jealousy, and so on) to which they belong.

Assessment Items

| Essays / Written Assignments | (1) Four 500-word papers, worth 50% | (2) One 2000-word essay, worth 50% |

Assumed Knowledge
Assumed knowledge for ENGL3020 is 20 units of English courses at 1000 level

Distributed to students week commencing:
21st February, 2005
CTS Download January 2005
Callaghan Campus Timetable  
ENGL3020  
RENAISSANCE DRAMA  
Enquiries: School of Language and Media  
Semester 1 - 2005  
Seminar Tuesday 11:00 - 13:00 [MC132]

Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.html)

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.
Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment: or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/special_consid.htm

Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2005
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2005
For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2005
For Trimester 2 courses: 10 June 2005

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the School Office.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/change-enrol.html
Contact Details

School of Language & Media Office
Room MC127 McMullin Building
The University of Newcastle
Callaghan Campus 2308
NSW Australia

Phone: +61 2 4921 5175 or 5172 or 5155 or 5360
Fax: +61 2 4921 6933 or 61 2 4921 7170
Email: Language-Media@newcastle.edu.au

Faculty Student Service Offices

Faculty of Science and Information Technology
Room V19 (Mathematics Building)
Phone: 0249 215 562

The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 0249 215 314

The Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
Room: EF101 (EF Building)
Phone: 0249 216 065

Architecture and Built Environment
Room: A106 (Architecture Building)
Phone: 0249 215 782

The Faculty of Health
Level 1 (Bowman Building)
Phone: 0249 215 682

The Faculty of Business and Law
Room: SRS130 (Social Sciences Building)
Phone: 0249 215 983

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
phone 492 16723;
fax: 492 16895;
Jennifer.Archer@newcastle.edu.au
Dean-of-Students@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 49 21 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au.

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at:

www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability
RENAISSANCE DRAMA (ENGL3020)
Semester 1, 2005

Time: Tuesdays 11am-1pm
Location: MC132
Lecturer: Dr Mark Gauntlett
Contact Details: e-mail: gaunto@optusnet.com.au or through the School office: 49 215175
Consultation Hours: Tuesdays 9.30-11am in MC136

Course Co-ordinator: Prof. Hugh Craig. Prof Craig can be contacted through the School office.

Seminar Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1:</strong> 22 Feb</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td><strong>2:</strong> 1 March</td>
<td>The Spanish Tragedy</td>
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<td><strong>3:</strong> 8 March</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
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<td><strong>4:</strong> 15 March</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5:</strong> 22 March</td>
<td>The Revenger’s Tragedy</td>
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<td><strong>6:</strong> 29 March</td>
<td>No class - public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7:</strong> 5 April</td>
<td>Dr Faustus</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Recess: 11 April - 25 April</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8:</strong> 26 April</td>
<td>Macbeth</td>
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<td><strong>9:</strong> 3 May</td>
<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:</strong> 10 May</td>
<td>Othello</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11:</strong> 17 May</td>
<td>Duchess of Malfi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12:</strong> 24 May</td>
<td>The Changeling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>13:</strong> 31 May</td>
<td>‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore</td>
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<td><strong>14:</strong> 7 June</td>
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Essay Consultations
Recommended Editions:

Although recommended editions have been ordered for the bookshop, it is fine to substitute other reputable editions that you may already own. Be aware, though, that in the case of particularly ‘unstable’ texts (such as *Hamlet*), another edition might be considerably different from that recommended.

Reading List:
This reading list is to help you with your research and assignments. As well as a general reading list, there are readings for each play. You should make an effort to consult these before class.

Starred titles have been placed in Short Loans. (Note that many of the readings on individual plays are to be found in these books.)

These are suggested readings only. To find other relevant texts and articles, use the resources of the library.

General Reading
*Patricia Parker & Geoffrey Hartman (eds), Shakespeare and the Question of Theory* (London, 1985).
*Stevie Simkin (ed.), Revenge Tragedy* (Basingstoke, 2001).

**The Spanish Tragedy**
* Katharine Eisaman Maus, *The Spanish Tragedy*, or, the Machiavel’s Revenge,” in Simkin.
* James Shapiro, “‘Tragedies naturally performed’: Kyd’s Representation of Violence,” in Kastan and Stallybrass.
* Article by Smith, in Simkin.

**Hamlet**
* Parker and Hartman (eds), *Shakespeare and the Question of Theory*, especially the three essays in Section IV: The question of *Hamlet*.

**The Revenger’s Tragedy**
* Peter Stallybrass, “Reading the Body and the Jacobean Theater of Consumption,” in Kastan and Stallybrass.
* Articles by Dollimore and Coddon, in Simkin.

**Dr Faustus**
* C.L. Barber (ed.) *Creating Elizabethan Tragedy: The Theatre of Marlowe and Kyd*.
* Jonathon Dollimore, “Dr Faustus: Subversion through Transgression,” in Dollimore.

**Macbeth**
There is of course a great deal of material on *Macbeth*. This is your opportunity to survey recent work on the play.

**Romeo and Juliet**

**Othello**
* Patricia Parker, “Shakespeare and rhetoric: ‘dilation’ and ‘delation’ in *Othello*,” in Parker and Hartman.
* Valerie Wayne, “Historical Differences: Misogyny and *Othello*,” in Wayne.

**The Duchess of Malfi**

**The Changeling**
* Articles by Malcolmson and Burks, in Simkin.

‘*Tis Pity She’s a Whore*
Bruce Boehrer, ‘Nice Philosophy: ‘*Tis Pity She’s a Whore* and the Two Books of God” *SEL* (1984), 355-71.
* Bowers (1959), 206-211.
* Articles by Wiseman and Neill, in Simkin.

**Assessment:**

1. Four 500-word Seminar Papers (50%)

You are required to submit four Seminar Papers, each of 500 words in length, and each on a different play. The topics from which you are to choose are set out below.

Each paper must be submitted before the class to which it relates; that is, if you choose a topic on *The Revenger’s Tragedy* you must present the paper to your lecturer immediately before the class on that play begins. Under no circumstances can a paper be submitted after the class.

PLEASE NOTE: The plays you discuss in your Seminar Papers cannot be discussed again in your Major Essay.

When choosing the topics for your Seminar Papers, please take care to spread your workload across the semester. You will make it difficult for yourself if you leave the submission of your four Papers until the last weeks of the course.

The Seminar Papers are discussion exercises, but they should follow the same guidelines on argument and presentation that apply to longer pieces of work.

Please note that the topics set out here are for the Seminar Papers. They are not to be confused with the topics for the Major Essay.
The Spanish Tragedy

What is the function served by the chorus of Revenge and the Ghost of Andrea?

Hamlet*

Discuss the way in which Horatio is introduced in the opening scenes of the play.

OR

Hamlet finds many occasions to censure himself. Consider the technique and significance of Hamlet’s soliloquy in 2.2.

*Papers on Hamlet topics must be submitted before the first class on that play.

The Revenger’s Tragedy

What do you see as the function and significance of the skull of Gloriana?

OR

“You that would murder him would murder me.” What kinds of irony attend the conclusion of the play?

Dr Faustus

Consider Faustus’s opening soliloquy. What are its implications for the play as tragedy and for our understanding of Faustus’s character?

Macbeth

What is the significance of the witches to the play?

OR

“I dare do all that may become a man.” Discuss the presentation of key ideas of masculinity in Macbeth.

Romeo and Juliet

Consider some key examples of the different ideas and valuations of love in the play.

OR

What is our first impression of Romeo? How is this first impression created?

Othello

The play is set in very different geographical locations. Why is this significant?

OR

Our understanding of Desdemona is shaped by our response to the play’s other female characters. Discuss.

The Duchess of Malfi

Consider the role of Bosola as satirist.

OR

Discuss the claims of political renewal at the end of the play.
The Changeling
What is the relationship between the play’s main plot and its subplot?
OR
Discuss the character and role of De Flores.

’Tis Pity She’s a Whore
What are the terms in which Giovanni tries to ‘reason’ his feelings in the play’s opening scenes?
OR
Discuss the presentation and significance of feasting and banqueting in the play.

2. Major Essay (50%)

Length: 2000 words
Due: Friday 4pm 17 June
Choose ONE of the following topics. Your essay should consider in detail TWO plays studied in the course. Do not consider in detail any of the plays discussed in your Seminar Papers.

1. Compare and contrast the presentation of the revenge ethic in two plays.
2. Tragedy is never merely a personal matter. Discuss the implication for the political state of the tragic action in two plays.
3. Consider the presentation and significance of madness in two plays.
4. Discuss the function of masques, plays and other theatrical entertainments in two plays.
5. In practice, tragedy of the English Renaissance challenged as much as it conformed to contemporary theories of tragedy. Discuss.
6. Why does marriage so often go so wrong in tragedies of the English Renaissance? What do these plays have to say to their culture about marriage?
7. Discuss the differing constructions and presentation of women in two plays.
8. Religion is a powerful but problematic force in the dramatic worlds of English Renaissance tragedy. Discuss.
9. English Renaissance “love tragedy” tends to be about love’s perversion as much as it is about “pure” love. Discuss.

Assessment guidelines
Assignment submission
Please ensure that all written work is submitted, and submitted on time. Your Seminar Papers should be submitted to your lecturer immediately before the start of the class to which the paper relates. Your Major Essay should be deposited in the assignment box (the box for the discipline of English) located outside the English Office.

Your Major Essay should not be handed directly to lecturers or placed under their doors or left in their pigeon-holes. An assignment has not been submitted until the administrative officer in the School Office has cleared it from the box and marked it off on the assignment roll. Late assignments should be handed to an officer in the School Office so that the date of submission is recorded. Assignments may be sent by express or courier mail, but are not to be faxed or e-mailed.

Students should retain a copy of each assignment submitted.

NOTE: It is not possible to pass a course unless all the assessment requirements have been completed.

Late Assignments
Late assignments, unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation substantiating serious incapacity, will incur a penalty. The penalty is 2% per day for each week day, and 2% for each weekend, that the assignment is late.

If students wish to seek an extension for a late assignment, on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment, they must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to an administrative officer in the School Office. The report should be made on the prescribed Special Consideration form. Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information:
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/special_consid.htm

The form and documentation will be taken into consideration by the lecturer, who will recommend to the Assessment Committee what deduction, if any, should be made for lateness.

Students should be aware that marks on individual assignments or marks for participation in a course are regarded as advice to the Assessment Committee, which makes the final decision on the mark awarded to a student.

Return of assignments
Please remember there are no circumstances under which Seminar Papers can be submitted late. Seminar Papers will be returned during class the week after submission. Final assignments should be collected from the Office or may be mailed to students if they provide a large envelope with appropriate postage. If students wish to ensure confidentiality of the assessment on a final assignment, they should attach a large envelope to the assignment when submitted.

Comments on assignments
In marking assignments, lecturers will add comments indicating ways in which the assignment might have been improved. Students should feel free to ask the lecturer to clarify comments on their assignment, or to get other feedback on the assignment from him or her. If,
after carefully reading the lecturer’s comments, students feel unable to accept the assessment, they are entitled to ask for a re-mark by another lecturer. They are not guaranteed a higher mark by this process of re-assessment; they may receive a lower mark. If an assignment is re-marked, both marks will be considered by the Assessment Committee when arriving at a course grade.

Students are encouraged to see the English Convenor, Dr Rosalind Smith, if they have any concerns about their assessment.

Assessment scale

The scale of marks and grades used for English courses is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Mark Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>85-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>75-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
<td>65-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass (P)</td>
<td>50-64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A note on attendance:
Attendance is compulsory. Your attendance requires more than your presence in the classroom: it also requires that you have prepared for the seminar by reading and thinking about the text. Please note that this course requires a lot of reading, so you should plan your semester accordingly.

Two absences are permissible and in appropriate circumstances (such as absence arising from illness) students may be given the opportunity to submit a piece of written work in place of a further missed class. In general, however, failure to fulfil the attendance requirements will result in failure in the course. Save in extraordinary circumstances, students who have missed four seminars in a 10-unit course will be regarded as not meeting attendance requirements and will not be thought of as eligible to pass that course.