

**ENGL 443/499: The English Renaissance  
City and Country in Early Modern English Literature**

Literary London - Summer 2014

Instructor: Paul Zajac

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England Cell Number: TBA

Classroom: TBA

Class Time: 10:30-11:45 AM

**Course Description**

Over the course of the Renaissance, an unprecedented population boom in the city of London led English writers to seriously rethink what it meant to live in the city or in the country. Thanks to the popular London theatres and an ever-growing market for printed books, authors spoke to and for audiences that were larger than ever before, and they had to represent urban and rustic life in ways that were relevant, useful, and (most importantly) enjoyable for those diverse audiences. In this course, we will study early modern depictions of the city and country, examining in particular the genres, character types, and cultural values associated with each. In order to enhance our discussions of the texts, we will use the time abroad to explore locations in London that our authors describe, attend a play at the recreated Globe theatre, and take an excursion to Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Suggested Editions of Course Texts**

William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Folger Shakespeare Library (2004), 978-0743484862

Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist*, New Mermaids (2010), 978-1408110201

William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*, New Mermaids (2014), 978-1408179895

There are also 3 PDFs on ANGEL for Week 1 and 2 of the class.

**Grade Breakdown**

Reading Responses - 60% (4 @ 15% each)

Theater Performance Assignment - 15%

Participation - 25%

**Note:** This course is not curved, so you aren't competing against one another. If you all earn A's you will all receive A's, and if you all earn C's you will all receive C's.

**Reading Responses (4 @ 15% each; 60% total)**

Over the course of the semester, you must prepare 4 total reading responses. At least 3 of these written assignments must be in response to specific prompts that I post on ANGEL. There will be several options for each of the plays that we read, as well as several options for the poems in Week 2. Each prompt will have a specific due date, and your response must be emailed to me before class begins on the date that it is due (so, no later than 10:30 AM, but usually the night before).

If you prefer, you may generate your own topic for **1** of the 4 reading responses. So, if something specific really strikes your interests about one of the readings and you do not have the opportunity to work it into one of my prompts, you can write a response paper of your own design. Two warnings though: 1) It is more difficult to do this effectively if you are only reading the works for the first time late at night before they are due the next day. 2) If you choose to do this and give yourself enough time to do it effectively, I encourage you to run topics by me in advance, either by email or in person. If you choose to craft a response of your own design and it does not engage satisfactorily with the text, it will be graded accordingly.

All responses should be driven by a thesis statement. In other words, you are making a reasonable and substantiated argument about the text/s in question, not simply writing a summary or telling me your opinion about something. The prompts will help you narrow your thinking in these ways, but if you find yourself struggling, I am happy to help. Practice the writing skills that you will learn and refine in Prof. Doyle's class.

Responses should be between 300 and 400 words (about two to three developed paragraphs).

### **Theatre Performance Assignment (15% in this class)**

There will be one writing assignment connected to a play performance that we see while in England. This assignment will count for a grade in both my course and Prof. Doyle's course. More details will be provided as we get closer to the performance date.

### **Participation (25%)**

This is a discussion-based class, so you will be graded on your regular participation. You must keep up with the readings in order to offer comments and questions during our class meetings. Everyone in the classroom must be respectful of others when voicing their opinions or responding to the comments of a fellow classmate. A student who is texting, checking his or her phone, or napping is clearly not participating, and this will be reflected in the student's grade.

For full participation points, every student must have a copy of the text we are discussing on a particular day and *either* a laptop on which to take notes *or* paper and a writing instrument.

Attendance in class and at field trips will be recorded and is a crucial part of your participation in this course. Your grade may be lowered for poor attendance, down to and including "F." Excused absences *may* be appropriate, but you should communicate with me about your absences *before class*, especially since we have only four weeks together. Be aware that University policy (*Policies and Rules*, 42-27) states that a student whose absences are excessive "may run the risk of receiving a lower grade or a failing grade," regardless of his or her performance in the class.

### **Office Hours**

Although I will not have regular office hours (since I don't have an office!), you are welcome and encouraged to set up an appointment with me to talk more in depth about your ideas, your writing, or our classroom discussions, or come to discuss any concerns or questions you might have about the course, college, London, etc. Let me know in person or via email if you would like to meet.

**Plagiarism (Cheating)**

Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20).

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. These students risk failing not just the individual assignment, but the entire course.

**Disability Policy**

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible.

## Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
May 19	London Context Readings (ANGEL)
May 20	<i>As You Like It</i> (Acts 1-2)
May 21	<i>As You Like It</i> (Acts 3-4)
May 22	<i>As You Like It</i> (Act 5)

*Class Visit to see Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus at the Globe Theatre on Thursday, May 22.*

May 26	Spenser's <i>Shepherd's Calendar</i> , Epistle and <i>Januarye</i>
May 27	Spenser's <i>SC</i> , <i>Aprill and October</i> ; Milton's <i>Lycidas</i>
May 28	"Passionate Shepherd" and the Responses; Donne Poems
May 29	Jonson's "To Penshurst"; Marvell Poems

*Class Visit to Stratford-Upon-Avon to see 1 Henry IV on Saturday, May 31.*

June 2	<i>The Alchemist</i> (Acts 1)
June 3	<i>The Alchemist</i> (Acts 2-3)
June 4	<i>The Alchemist</i> (Act 4)
June 5	<i>The Alchemist</i> (Act 5)

*Class Trip for Prof. Doyle's course on Friday, June 6.*

June 9	<i>The Country Wife</i> (Act 1)
June 10	<i>The Country Wife</i> (Acts 2-3)
June 11	<i>The Country Wife</i> (Acts 4-5)
June 12	Finish Course Discussions