LITERATURES IN ENGLISH 1500-1700

English 150A  Shakespeare: Poems and Early Plays  Prof. McEachern

Study of Shakespeare's plays and poetry from first half of his career (up to Hamlet), with emphasis on romantic comedies and histories. Topics covered include history of Elizabethan professional theater; stylistic evolution; cultural contexts; dramaturgy and handling of genres.

English 150B  Shakespeare: Later Plays  Prof. Dickey

Lecture and discussion. A study of Shakespeare works from 1604 onward, including Othello, Measure for Measure, King Lear, Macbeth, Coriolanus and The Tempest.

English 150C  Shakespeare in Black, Early Modern and Contemporary  Prof. Little

Topics in Shakespeare

This course works as an introduction to Shakespeare race studies by closely examining the relationship between Shakespeare and African and African-American cultures. The first part of the course focuses on Shakespeare’s three “black” plays—Titus Andronicus, Othello, and Antony and Cleopatra; the second part of the course examines African/African-American appropriation of three “non-black” plays: possible plays include Hamlet, Macbeth, and The Tempest and possible writers/filmmakers include Wulf Sachs, Orson Welles, and Toni Morrison.

English 151  Milton  Prof. Rowe

Milton is the last Renaissance poet; his poetry, the culmination of the rebirth of Antiquity, both Classical and Christian, that began in Italy some three centuries earlier. Yet, if heir to the ancient traditions, Milton is also harbinger of what the dollar bill (look in your wallet) calls Novus Ordo Seculorum, the New Order of the Ages. Of the perhaps sixty paintings that encircle the walls of the New York Public Library's reference room, hung in chronological order to compose a visual narrative of American history, two (the second and third) are of Milton. . . . The course will focus on the major poetry, especially Paradise Lost, but since Milton was a political thinker and a fairly important figure in the English Revolution, we will also read some of the key prose tracts, including his seminal defense of a free press. There will be two papers and ten quizzes, but neither midterm nor final.

English 153  Early Modern London Theater and Shakespeare  Prof. Braunmuller

We will consider about fifteen plays written by Shakespeare’s contemporaries in the Golden Age of English-language drama (roughly 1580-1625)—most were performed in the embryonic public, professional theatres, but some were written for court performance before the monarch. We will particularly examine how the plays explore and analyze prominent contemporary political and socio-cultural issues such as female agency, male inheritance, the church’s authority, and marriage.