

NAME: Christopher Matusiak

COURSE NUMBER: ENG304Y5Y

COURSE TITLE: Poetry and Prose, 1600-1660

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores English literature written between the accession of the Stuarts in 1603 and the restoration of the overthrown monarchy in 1660. It was a period brimming with tension between material and spiritual impulses, reason and faith, old ways of thinking and new. In the first term, students will read love poetry by Donne, Carew, Wroth, and Herrick, philosophical prose by Bacon and Burton, the devotional verse of Herbert and Vaughan, and Webster's wonderfully perverse tragedy, *The Duchess of Malfi*. England's religious civil wars and the stunning beheading of its king in 1649 provide the context for our second-term readings of Hobbes's political prose, Marvell's studiously ambiguous poems, and Milton's great experiment in epic, *Paradise Lost*. Throughout the year, we will focus on literary form – imagery, rhetoric, metaphor, and other figurative devices – while considering the ways writers used specific literary modes such as pastoral, epigram, ode, essay, and epic to participate in the dizzying intellectual, religious, and political revolutions of the seventeenth century.

REQUIRED READING: Greenblatt, et al, eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature vol. B: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century*, 8th ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006) paperback

FIRST THREE TEXTS/AUTHORS TO BE STUDIED:

Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love"
Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"
Donne, "The Bait"

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture / discussion

METHOD OF EVALUATION: close-reading exercises (3 x 5% = 15%); first-term essay (15%); first-term test (10%), second-term essay (20%); informed participation (10%); final exam (30%)