

NAME: Christopher Matusiak

COURSE NUMBER: ENG331H5F

COURSE TITLE: English Drama to 1603

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores drama produced in England between the fourteenth century and the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603. We will consider the literary and theatrical features of the civic biblical pageant, the morality play, early Tudor farce, and the commercial drama of Elizabethan playwrights such as Kyd, Marlowe, and Shakespeare. How did early drama reflect the social, political, and economic concerns of its first audiences? What kinds of performance spaces, stage properties, and costumes did early actors use? How did their scripts become the printed literary texts we read today? While considering these historical questions, we will closely analyze selected scenes and discuss the ways early drama continues to generate meaning today.

REQUIRED READING:

Coursepack (details forthcoming)

Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (Revels Student Edition)

Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus and Other Plays* (Oxford)

Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Oxford)

FIRST THREE TEXTS/AUTHORS TO BE STUDIED:

The Creation and Fall of the Angels

Noah

The Sacrifice of Isaac

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture / discussion

METHOD OF EVALUATION: Close-reading exercises (3 x 5% = 15%); first essay (15%); second essay (25%); informed participation (10%); final exam (35%)