

NAME: Christopher Matusiak

COURSE NUMBER: ENG335H5F

COURSE TITLE: English Drama 1603 to 1642

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys English drama from the accession of James I in 1603 to Parliament's suppression of playing in 1642. Plays such as Jonson's *Volpone*, Fletcher's *The Tamer Tamed*, Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*, Middleton and Rowley's *The Changeling*, and Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* will introduce students to a range of topics that fascinated early seventeenth-century audiences: the complex relations between women and men; extreme psychological states; the challenges of urban living; the corrupting influence of power and money; the omnipresence of violence; and philosophical problems of free will, fortune, and providence. Since Shakespeare was an active member of the King's Men at this time, we will also study a lesser known play, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, which reflects the period's tendency to test generic boundaries and challenge audience expectations.

REQUIRED READING:

The Duchess of Malfi: Seven Masterpieces of Jacobean Drama ed. Frank Kermode (Modern Library Paperbacks)
Dekker, Ford, Rowley, *The Witch of Edmonton* (New Mermaids)
Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed* (Revels Student Edition)
Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Revels Student Edition)
Middleton, Dekker, *The Roaring Girl* (New Mermaids)
Shakespeare, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (Oxford)

FIRST THREE TEXTS/AUTHORS TO BE STUDIED:

Heywood, *A Woman Killed with Kindness*
Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*
Jonson, *Volpone*

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%)