

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 4270	Course Title: Research Seminar 1	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: lecture, discussion, student presentations
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Brief Course Synopsis: This course will focus on the relationship between Shakespeare and the feminine writing style. After an introduction which will summarize the recent Shakespeare authorship debates — and the 'Italianate' aristocrat Edward de Vere as a candidate for Shakespeare — we will examine three plays by Shakespeare— *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* and *Richard II*— in the context of Terry Eagleton's analysis and a reading from *Shakespeareer*. We will look at euphuism as a feminine literary style, referencing Wilde and Lena Ostermark-Johnansen. We will plunge into a study of theories of feminine writing, referencing Simone de Beauvoir, Helen Cixous, Roland Barthes, David Savran, and Daniel MacIvor's *Here Lies Henry*. Students will be marked on their contribution to class discussion, as well as essays, and each will do a research seminar presentation. Does it diminish Shakespeare's work to examine its relationship to gender, sexuality and politics? How is a 'feminist' content different than a 'feminine' style, and how do the two work together (or separately) to create meaning in drama?

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Weekly questions 16%

Response papers 20%

Seminars 20%

Participation 20%

Final Essay 24%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Books

MacIvor, Daniel. *Here Lies Henry*

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*

Shakespeare, William. *Richard II*

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*

Wilde, Oscar. *A Woman of No Importance*

Eagleton, Terry. *William Shakespeare*

Menon, Madhavi. (ed) *Shakespeareer*

Ostermark-Johansen, Lena. "The Death of Euphues: Euphuism and
Decadence in Late-Victorian Literature"

Savran, David. *Cowboys, Communists and Queers*

Waugh, Alexander. *Shakespeare in Court* (not mandatory: only read if you wish)

Barthes, Roland. *The Pleasure of the Text*

Borrow, Justin. "The First Folio of William Shakesvere"

Cixous, Helen. "The Laugh of the Medusa"

Lily, John. *Endymion*

de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Portrait of Mr. W. H.*

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):