

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 2016
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: lecture/discussion
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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 two plays by Shakespeare— Macbeth and Twelfth Night — in the context of Terry Eagleton’s analysis. Then we will look at euphuism as a feminine literary style, referencing Wilde and Lena Ostermark-Johnansen. We will then plunge into a study of theories of feminine writing, referencing Simone de Beauvoir, Helen Cixous, Roland Barthes, David Savran, Daniel MacIvor’s Here Lies Henry and others. 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 15%
Response Papers 20%
Seminars 20%
Participation 20%
Final Essay 25%

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. Twelfth Night
Wilde, Oscar. A Woman of No Importance

Coursepack featuring excerpts from:

Eagleton, Terry. William Shakespeare
Menon, Madhavi. (ed) Shakesqueer
Savran, David. Cowboys, Communists and Queers
Waugh, Alexander. Shakespeare in Court
Ostermark-Johansen, Lena. "The Death of Euphues: Euphuism and
Decadence in Late-Victorian Literature" (read only excerpts as explicated on course link)

Online readings

Barthes, Roland. The Pleasure of the Text
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):