**English 422**

**Literature of the Seventeenth Century**

Class Meeting: Wednesday and Friday, noon-1.20pm, THH 213

Professor: Rebecca Lemon, English Department, THH 429

Email: rlemon@usc.edu; phone: 213.740.3732

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 11am-noon, or by appointment

**Course Description**

English 422 (English Literature of the 17th century) examines literature produced in a time of political crisis. Some authors addressed the period’s political upheaval directly, participating in the civil war. Others writers found solace in love, God, drink or travel. We will examine all of these responses. In doing so we will read the compelling and influential poetry, prose and drama by writers such as Shakespeare, Donne, Jonson, Lanyer, Bacon, Milton, and Behn. The course’s final project will offer a creative option, such as writing your own sonnet sequence, designing your own book, or producing a multi-media travelogue.

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| **Required Book List** |

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume B* – Edition 9 (2012)

I have ordered the book into the USC bookstore. You might also find it on Amazon. Volume 1 of the Norton Anthology is just fine (I ordered the smaller volume B, which is contained in the larger volume 1).

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| **Course Requirements** |

* Essays: Two 6-8 page essays, due on the dates shown below. NB: If you are interested in writing one long (15 page) paper, please approach me and we can negotiate topics and deadlines.
* Three 2 page response papers, one at the end of each unit.
* Midterm examination
* Presentation/leading class discussion. Please select one week (any week, from 2-14, is fair game) when you would like to lead discussion for the first portion of class (20 minutes or so). Here, you might choose to offer discussion questions, circulated ahead of time; or you might like to draw out some of the themes in the text(s) to help provoke discussion – you can approach the presentation-class discussion however you like, but this is not meant to be a formal presentation, but instead a proper discussion which helps spark comments from everyone.

Grading: You will be graded on essays, response papers, the midterm exam, and class participation (which includes a class presentation, thoughtful contributions to class discussion, as well as attendance). You are welcome to show me a draft of your paper for comments, up to one class period before the paper is due (i.e. if it is due on a Friday, you have until Wednesday to show me a draft).

Class attendance: Attendance and class participation are an important part of the course. You are allowed only two excused absences. Any more than two absences will lower your final grade, and any more than six absences will be reason for a failing grade in the course.

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| **Grading Breakdown** |

* + 20% for participation in class discussion and presentation

15% for written responses to the units

* + 20% Essay 1

25% Essay 2

* + 20% midterm

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| **Seminar Schedule, Spring 2015** |

**UNIT ONE: LOVE**

Week One: Introduction

1/14: Introduction to the course, Shakespeare sonnets; Sidney’s Astrophil and Stella 12, Spenser’s Amoretti 15

 Flythrough of 17th century London:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPY-hr-8-M0>

Map of early modern London: the Agas Map

<http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/map.htm>

1/16: Shakespeare sonnets

Week Two: John Donne's secular love

1/21: Shakespeare sonnets

1/23: Donne: The Flea, The Good-Morrow, Love's Alchemy, The Anniversary, The Sun Rising, The Canonization, Confined Love, A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning, A Nocturnal upon S. Lucy's Day

Week Three: Shakespeare’s transformative love

1/28: Donne: A Valediction: of Weeping, The Ecstasy, Elegy XIX: To his Mistress going to bed

1/30: *Twelfth Night*

Week Four: Shakespeare’s transformative love

2/4: *Twelfth Night*

2/6: *Twelfth Night*

Week Five: The Country House poem and love of property

2/11: Aemilia Lanyer: Description of Cooke-ham; Ben Jonson: To Penshurst

**Handout essay 1 assignment**

2/13: Marvell, To His Coy Mistress, The Garden, Upon Appleton House, Bermudas

Week Six: Cavalier poets’s carpe diem love

2/18: Richard Lovelace (pp. 764-69)

2/20: Robert Herrick: To the Most Illustrious and Most Hopeful Prince, Charles; Delight in Disorder, Corinna's Going A Maying; To the Virgins, To make much of time; The Hock-cart

**Response paper due**

**UNIT TWO: FAITH**

Week Seven: Donne's Spiritual Love

2/25: Donne: Holy Sonnets I-XI; start reading Graham Perry, "Varieties of Religious Experience," in *The Seventeenth Century: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature*

Virtual Paul's Cross: <http://vpcp.chass.ncsu.edu>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdt0yCbvyHg&feature=youtu.be>

 **Essay 1 due**

2/27: Donne: Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward; A Hymn to God my God, in my sickness; A Hymn to God the Father

Week Eight: George Herbert's Faith

3/4: Herbert: the Altar, Redemption, Easter Wings, Affliction (I)

3/6: Herbert: Jordan (I), Church-Monuments, Jordan (II), The Collar, The Pulley, Love (III)

Week Nine: Milton’s faithful epic

3/11: John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book I

3/13: *Paradise Lost*, Book II-III

SPRING BREAK

Week Ten:

3/25: Study day

3/27: **Midterm**

Week Eleven: Milton’s faithful epic

4/1: *Paradise Lost*, Book IV-V

4/3: *Paradise Lost*, Book VI (lines 670-end) – Book VII

 **Handout Essay 2 assignment**

Week Twelve: Milton’s faithful epic

4/8: *Paradise Lost*, Book VIII (lines 250-end) – Book IX

4/10: *Paradise Lost*, Book X; XI (lines 1-428); Book XII (lines 270-end)

**Response paper due**

**UNIT THREE: SELF**

Week Thirteen: Self-examination

4/15: Donne, *Devotions upon emergent occasions*

4/17: Jonson, “Ode to himself,” “To my book,” “My picture left in Scotland”

 **Essay 2 assignment due**

Week Fourteen: Self in the world

4/22: Bacon, *Essays*

4/24: Bacon, *Essays*

Week Fifteen: Self and the spirit

4/29: Burton, *Anatomy of Melancholy*

5/1: Browne, *Religio Medici*

**Response Paper Due**

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| **University Policies** |

**Support Systems**

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs <http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standardshttps://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior- violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

**Statement on Student Behavior**

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students’ ability to learn and an instructor’s ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. These strictures may extend to behaviors outside the classroom that are related to the course.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.