



Literature 1550-1700 Course Descriptor

Course Title	Literature 1550-1700	Faculty	English
Course Code	NCHEN508	Course Leader	Dr Daniel Swift
Credit Points	30	Teaching Period	Michaelmas
FHEQ Level	5	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

COURSE SUMMARY

This course aims to give knowledge of a range of texts from the second half of the sixteenth century and the seventeenth century, an understanding of their social and cultural contexts, and the interpretive skills necessary to give sophisticated descriptions of them. It is left until the second year in order to allow students to develop in their understanding of historical depth and linguistic variation, before tackling the period course which is most historically and linguistically distanced from the present day.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to give:

- A knowledge of a range of texts from period 1550-1700 across all three genres (poetry, prose, and drama).
- An understanding of the social and cultural contexts of these texts.
- The knowledge and skills to identify and understand the key formal and thematic characteristics of the literature of the period; and
- The skills necessary to give sophisticated descriptions of texts from the period.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1b demonstrate knowledge and a critical understanding of a range of texts in each of the genres of prose, poetry, and drama from the period
- K2b understand, analyse and evaluate how this literature and its genres are related to relevant cultural and historical contexts
- K3b understand, analyse and evaluate the historical development of a number of literary genres (including tragedy and comedy) and forms (including the sonnet)

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1b effectively use a range of established techniques to interpret models and critical terms necessary to read the particular texts studied on the course
- S2b effectively present arguments and analysis concerning the literature of the period
- S3b effectively interpret the literature of the period in ways which are appropriate to its particular nature

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1b effectively present coherent arguments and critical analysis of information in verbal and written form
- T2b critically analyse diverse forms of literary and critical material
- T3b develop existing skills and acquire new competences to enable them to assume responsibility for one's own course through the study of the period

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 30 x large-group hours
- 4 x tutorial hours (individual or group tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 300.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Communication Skills
- Presentation skills
- Analytical skills

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, including extensive discussion during tutorials and written comments upon essays.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Examination	100	Yes	3 hours 15 minutes	N/A

The examination will consist of 9 questions from which the student will have to answer 3, including one mandatory question. Both the examination and the written assignment will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis); and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary, in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings, and reports) and through generic internal examiners' reports, both of which are posted on the College's VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Belsey, Catherine, *The Subject of Tragedy: Identity and Difference in Renaissance Drama* (Routledge, 1985)

Booth, Stephen, ed., *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (Yale University Press, 1977)

Carey, John, *John Donne: Life, Mind, and Art* (Faber, 1990)

Duffy, Eamon, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, 1400–1580* (Yale University Press, 1992)

Fish, Stanley, *Surprised by Sin: The Reader in Paradise Lost* (Macmillan, 1997)

Greenblatt, *Renaissance Self-Fashioning From More to Shakespeare* (University of Chicago Press, 1980)

Hill, Christopher, *The Intellectual Origins of the English Revolution Revisited* (Clarendon Press, 1997)

Hill, Christopher, *The English Bible and the Seventeenth-Century Revolution* (Penguin, 1994)

Martz, Louis, *Poetry of Meditation: A Study in English Religious Literature of the Seventeenth Century* (Yale University Press, 1954)

INDICATIVE TOPICS

- Introduction to the Early Modern Period
- The Sonnet
- Religion and Literature
- Tragedy
- The New World
- Metaphysical Poetry
- The English Civil War

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Approved by: Academic Board					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Location	Proposed next review date
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Catherine Brown	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
1.1	January 2021	January 2021	Catherine Brown	Academic Handbook/Programme specifications and Handbooks/ Undergraduate Programme Specifications/ English BA (Hons) Programme Specifications/English Course Descriptors	April 2025
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Modifications (As per AQF4)					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Modification (including category number)		
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy'		
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