

# The European Renaissance

LIT 236.01, Fall 2017

Prof. John Hunt, [john.hunt@mso.umt.edu](mailto:john.hunt@mso.umt.edu)  
LA 127 (Tues 12:30-3 and by appointment)

Gallagher Business Bldg. 226  
Corbin 258 (Mon 1-2, Tues 2-4:30 and by appt.)  
TR 11:00-12:20  
Alicia Sepulveda, [alicia.sepulveda@umconnect.edu](mailto:alicia.sepulveda@umconnect.edu)

**Course goals:** This course offers brief introductions to important writers and ideas of the European Renaissance, focusing especially on English-language works but also looking at Italian, French, Latin, and Spanish writings in translation. The class will consider ways in which these “early modern” texts from the early 1300s through the mid-1600s anticipate our more familiar modern ways of thinking and writing. Three papers, plus a revised paper at the end of the semester, will task you with exploring your own thoughts about this issue.

**Course materials:** You don't need to purchase any textbooks for the class, as readings will be available electronically on Moodle. You must be able to use Moodle and to open PDF documents. And you will need to bring some kind of paper sheets to class each day for answering quiz questions. Laptops and smartphones are welcome in class, *if* you are using them only to access course materials and/or take notes.

## Schedule of reading assignments (available on Moodle):

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| Aug.  | 31 | No assigned reading   |
| Sept. | 5  | Dante Alighieri, <i>Inferno</i> 4 and 26  |
|       | 7  | Michel de Montaigne, <i>To the Reader</i> , <i>Giving the Lie</i> , and <i>Repentance</i>   |
|       | 12 | Gianfrancesco Pico della Mirandola, <i>On the Dignity of Man</i> (excerpt)<br>Philip Sidney, <i>An Apology for Poetry</i> (excerpt)<br>Christopher Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , act 1 scene 1 |
|       | 14 | Thomas Browne, <i>Religio Medici</i> (excerpts)   |
|       | 19 | John Donne, <i>The Sun Rising</i> , <i>The Anniversary</i> , and <i>Lovers' Infiniteness</i>  |
|       | 21 | Andrew Marvell, <i>On a Drop of Dew</i> and <i>The Garden</i>   |
|       | 26 | John Donne, <i>The Flea</i> and <i>Elegy</i> 19   |

- 28 Andrew Marvell, *To His Coy Mistress*  
 Giovanni Boccaccio, *Decameron* 1.2, 2.9, 3.2, 3.10, and 7.2
- Oct. 3 François Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel* (excerpts) **Paper due**  
 5 William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* 3.2 and 4.1, *Twelfth Night* 2.5,  
 and *Much Ado about Nothing* 2.3
- 10 Desiderius Erasmus, *The Free Will* (excerpt)  
 Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will* (excerpts)
- 12 George Herbert, *The Altar*, *Redemption*, *Easter Wings*, *Aaron*,  
*The Holdfast*, *The Collar*, *The Flower*, and *Love (III)*
- 17 Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (excerpts)  
 19 Thomas More, *Utopia* (excerpts)
- 24 William Shakespeare, scenes from *Richard II* and *King Lear*  
 26 John Milton, *Areopagitica* (excerpt) **Paper due**  
 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (excerpts)  
 Andrew Marvell, *An Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland*
- 31 Francesco Petrarca, selected sonnets  
 Thomas Wyatt, selected songs and sonnets
- Nov. 2 Philip Sidney, selected songs and sonnets  
 William Shakespeare, selected sonnets
- 7 Mary Wroth, selected songs and sonnets  
 John Donne, *The Apparition*, *The Blossom*, *Love's Deity*, *Love's Diet*, and  
*The Damp*
- 9 Galileo Galilei, *The Two Chief World Systems* (excerpt)  
 John Donne, *The Anatomy of the World* (excerpt)
- 14 Michel de Montaigne, *Of Cannibals* and *Apology for Sebond* (excerpts)  
 16 Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum* (excerpts)
- 21 Robert Hooke, *Micrographia* (excerpts) **Paper due**  
 23 No class (Thanksgiving)
- 28 Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (excerpts)  
 30 Ludovico Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (excerpts)

Dec.	5	Edmund Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (excerpts)	
	7	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> (excerpts)	<b>Revision due</b>
	12	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> (excerpts)	
	18	Optional final exam on Monday, Dec. 18, 10:10-12:10 (same room)	

**Readings:** You are responsible for completing each day's reading by class time on the date listed on the syllabus. You can choose either to print off the PDF documents or to read them on a computer. If you don't mind reading on a screen, there are applications that will enable you to underline and even annotate PDFs electronically.

**Quizzes:** You'll need to arrive on time to this class. At the beginning of most meetings, there will be a quiz that should take no more than five minutes. The purpose is to see that you have done the day's reading with some careful attention. Questions will be simple and straightforward—multiple-choice and short-answer. All computers and phones must be put away when taking a quiz. At the end of the semester I'll exclude three of the lowest scores before calculating an aggregate grade for the quizzes. There will be no make-up quizzes unless you bring a written excuse for missing class, soon after your absence.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is required, and will be checked by means of the quizzes. If you come to class but haven't done the day's reading, either turn in a blank paper with your name on it so we'll know that you were present, or let one of the instructors know at the end of class. You're allowed three unexcused absences, which will show up as missing quizzes and be dropped out of the total (see paragraph above). If you miss a large number of classes it will lower your course grade even beyond the effect on your aggregate quiz grade.

**Papers:** You're required to write three papers, each of them 4-5 pp. in length, and a slightly longer 5-7 pp. revision of one of those papers. The first three papers will be graded and returned with detailed comments on both the argument and the writing. The revision will receive only a brief final comment about your success in rethinking the argument and improving the writing, along with a grade that could be *either higher or lower* than your original grade. You should turn in the revision together with the marked copy of the earlier version. The grade will constitute a very small portion of your course grade, but when combined with the grade on the earlier paper it will be a large part of the course grade, equal to the combined quizzes (see formula below).

### Grading:

- 30% quizzes
- 20% first paper
- 20% second paper

- 20% third paper
- 10% revision

**Final exam:** It's optional. If you choose to write one, the grade will replace the lowest of your paper grades. (Unless the exam grade is lower—under no circumstances will taking the final exam lower your course grade.) There will be a single, open-ended question announced well in advance, asking you to explain what the Renaissance means to you after studying it for an entire semester. You can't write the essay before the finals hour, but you can think about your answer weeks in advance and bring notes with you to consult as you write.

**Paper due dates:** You can ask Alicia for an extension on either of the first two papers, and (if she says yes) hand in the essay one class later than the date listed on the syllabus (i.e., from Tuesday to Thursday, or Thursday to Tuesday). The idea here is not only to give you a break, if you're busy, but also to give Alicia a break, so she does not have a huge stack on her desk at any one time. If demand for this option is high, we may require people who took advantage of it in the first round to hand in the second paper on time.

**Participation:** This is a lecture-sized class, and no grade will be assigned for participation in class discussions, but there will be lots of opportunity for discussion. Contributing regularly and well may raise your course grade from the one calculated by the formula above.

**Disabilities:** Students with documented disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations. Please speak with me privately at the beginning of the semester about any accommodations you need, and be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process.

**Plagiarism:** Your papers must be solely your own work and written solely for this course. While all the ideas discussed in our classroom are common property, unacknowledged use of others' written work, whether paraphrased or quoted, constitutes plagiarism, which is an affront to the fundamental values of an academic institution. You must acknowledge, by citation of name, title, and location, any published work that has influenced your thinking, using established academic guidelines for documentation. If you violate this policy the instructors will take action according to university procedures spelled out in the university's Student Conduct Code.

**Academic deadlines:** Please consult the university's official dates and deadlines calendar, which I have loaded on our Moodle shell as a PDF. Beneath it is a briefer Registration Deadlines chart. The last time to drop classes via Cyberbear is 5:00 PM, September 21.