

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

TITLE	Pirates, Knights and Aliens: Insiders and Outsiders in Renaissance England
MODULE CODE	77-6315-00S
LEVEL	6
CREDITS	20
ECTS CREDITS VALUE	10
DEPARTMENT	Humanities
SUBJECT GROUP	English
DATE APPROVED	24/6/16

MODULE AIM

This module invites you to discover the people and literature of Renaissance England, an age of exploration, literary innovation and social change.

By studying this module, you will find out how poets, playwrights and prose-writers still influenced by medieval ideas of courtliness and chivalry responded to local and world events like the discovery of gold and new civilisations in the New World, the threat of invasion by the Spanish Armada, and war and piracy in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

As well as experiencing classic works by William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser and Christopher Marlowe, you will see the world through the eyes of Sir Philip Sidney and Sir Walter Raleigh, superstars at the court of Queen Elizabeth I. You will also meet the controversial professional writer Thomas Nashe, and Miles Philips, an everyday crewman on an English slave-ship, held captive in Mexico for 15 years by the Spanish Inquisition.

On this module you will develop a fully-rounded perspective on life and literature during this rich and exciting period, while exploring important themes including chivalry, courtship, justice, nationhood, freedom, personal identity, and colonialism.

SUMMARY OF AIMS

- To explore a range of canonical and non-canonical texts from the English Renaissance.
- To make connections between important processes and events in this period, including religious conflict, slavery and colonialism, and their literary and cultural legacies.
- To develop advanced skills in textual analysis and critical argument.
- To enhance critical independence and the capacity for self-directed research, including making use of appropriate digital resources.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LO Ref	Learning Outcome
1	Have knowledge and understanding of a range of canonical and non-canonical Renaissance texts
2	Be able to relate these texts to the material, cultural and historical circumstances of their production
3	Apply theoretical and contextual approaches to explore a range of key conceptual issues relevant to the module

INDICATIVE CONTENT

Topics and issues covered by the module include:

- Ideals of Courtliness vs the realities of early colonialism.
- The formation and application of stereotypes in literary and non-literary texts.
- Constructing personal and national identities.
- Literary and non-literary Intertextuality.

Indicative Texts:

Knights: Courtliness and Colonialism

Sir Philip Sidney – *Astrophil and Stella*
 Edmund Spenser – *The Faerie Queene* (Book 1)
 Edmund Spenser – *A View of the Present State of Ireland*
 Sir Walter Raleigh – *The Discovery of the Large, Rich, and Beautiful Empire of Guiana*

Aliens: Stereotypes and Encounters

Christopher Marlowe – *Tamburlaine the Great*
 Christopher Marlowe – *The Jew of Malta*
 William Shakespeare – *The Merchant of Venice*
 Thomas Nashe – *The Unfortunate Traveller*

Pirates: Life and Death at Sea and on Land

John Hawkins – *The Third Troublesome Voyage to the West Indies*
 Miles Philips – *A Discourse Written by one Miles Philips Englishman*
 Robert Daborne – *A Christian Turn'd Turk*

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Students will be supported in their learning, to achieve the above outcomes, in the following ways:

- Weekly lectures of one hour focusing on the key texts and relevant contexts and themes.
- Weekly seminars of one hour informed by your private reading of texts and criticism.
- Workshops developing skills related to the module content, e.g. use of specialist Renaissance digital resources.
- A blackboard site detailing module content, suggested further reading, and other resources.
- An approach to assessment that encourages you to develop your written work in response to feedback.

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Task No.	Description of Assessment Task	Assessment Task Type Coursework (CW) Written Exam (EX) Practical (PR)	Word Count or Exam Duration	Task Weighting %
1	Critical Commentary	CW	1500	30
2	Essay	CW	2500	70

FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS

Students will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways

- You will be given written feedback on Assessment task 1 midway through the delivery of the module, to encourage you to take account of feedback and to feed it forward into your second assignment.
- Students are required to fill in the standard self-assessment forms when submitting their essays. A copy of these forms, with responses and comments added by the tutor is returned to students when they are given their mark for the assignment.
- Tutors are available for individual tutorials both before and after the assignment are completed.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THIS MODULE (hyperlink to Resource Lists Online)

- A blackboard site that will detail module content, include lecture slides, reading lists and provide links to the other resources mentioned below.
- The learning centre's collection of early modern texts and modern critical works.
- *Early English Books Online*, which includes electronic versions of about 100,000 works published before 1700.
- Electronic collections and databases of critical works such as JSTOR and the MLA bibliography.

[RLO to follow]

The module descriptor should include a hyperlink to an online resources list using the [Resource Lists Online](#) (RLO) system. Further information on RLO and guidance on linking Resource Lists Online to the Module Blackboard site is available [here](#).

MODULES INCLUDING RESEARCH PROJECTS AND/OR TEACHING-RELATED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Will the assessment for this module require approval by Faculty Research Ethics Committee? If YES, please detail below how students will seek approval for their research	YES/ NO

NOTIONAL STUDY HOURS FOR THIS MODULE

Module Study Hours by Type (see KIS definitions)		
Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activity	No. of Hours	KIS category
Lecture	12	Scheduled L&T
Seminar	12	Scheduled L&T
Tutorial	Available on request	Scheduled L&T
Project Supervision with tutor	--	Scheduled L&T
Demonstration	--	Scheduled L&T
Practical classes and workshops	12	Scheduled L&T
Supervised time in studio/workshop/laboratory	--	Scheduled L&T
Fieldwork	--	Scheduled L&T

External visits	--	Scheduled L&T
Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities sub-total	36	
Guided Independent Study	164	Independent
Placement or Work-based Learning**	--	Placement
TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTIONAL STUDY HOURS FOR MODULE	200	

REVISIONS

Date	Reason
June 2016	Large Scale Modification DB3HU04-1516
July 2017	Operational change approved by Humanities Departmental Board 21/06/17