

HUM/En 5: Major British Authors

Section 1

Fall 2008

Richard Squibbs

Dabney Hall Rm. 115: Tues/Thurs 9:00-10:25

Aims: We will read and discuss a range of literary works produced by English writers from the period known as the Renaissance through the Victorian period, paying special attention throughout to the generic qualities of these works. What kinds of expectations are meant to be raised in readers' minds as they read a tragedy? A lyric poem? A romance? An essay? We might broadly say that each genre projects a particular worldview, and that at the point where the reader's imaginative efforts meet the author's, new imaginative realities unfold. These realities live in the minds of readers as they read, and we will spend our time this quarter exploring them as fully as we can.

Requirements: Three essays: two shorter ones focused on close readings of an assigned work, and a final longer one that will present a thesis dealing with two of the works we will have read during the term. There will also be a number of take-home assignments on various readings, due in class on the day we will discuss those readings. The essays will count for two-thirds of your final grade for the course; the other assignments and class participation will account for the other third.

Office hours: By appointment, in Dabney 212. My office phone # is 626-395-1749 and my email is rsquibbs@hss.caltech.edu. Email is the best way to get in touch with me.

Required texts (available at the Caltech bookstore):

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. 1: The Middle Ages through the Restoration and 18th Century, ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al, 8th edition (NA)

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Norton)

William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (Oxford)

William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads* (Routledge)

Walter Pater, *Appreciations, with An Essay on Style* (BiblioBazaar)

Reading List

Tues 9/30: Introduction

Thurs 10/2: Thomas More *Utopia* (NA, 518-545)

Tues 10/7: Thomas More *Utopia* (NA, 545-590)

Thurs 10/9: Philip Sidney *A Defense of Poesy* [selections] (NA)

Tues 10/14: William Shakespeare *The Tempest* (Acts 1-3)

Thurs 10/16: William Shakespeare *The Tempest* (Acts 4 & 5)

Tues 10/21: No class

Thurs 10/23: Christopher Marlowe *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus* (NA) **[essay #1 due]**

Tues 10/28: Ben Jonson "To Penshurst;" Andrew Marvell "The Garden"
(NA)

Thurs 10/30: John Donne "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning;" "The Ecstasy;" "First Anniversary [selections]" (NA)

Tues 11/4: John Milton "L'Allegro;" "Il Penseroso" (NA)

Thurs 11/6: Jonathan Swift *Gulliver's Travels* [selections] (NA)

Tues 11/11: Jonathan Swift *Gulliver's Travels* [selections] (NA) **[essay #2 due]**

Thurs 11/13: William Blake *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

Tues 11/18: William Blake *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

Thurs 11/20: William Wordsworth & Samuel Taylor Coleridge *Lyrical Ballads* [selections]

Tues 11/25: William Wordsworth & Samuel Taylor Coleridge *Lyrical Ballads* [selections]

Thurs 11/27: No class – Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs 12/2: Walter Pater "Style;" "Postscript to *Appreciations*"

Tues 12/4: Walter Pater "Wordsworth" **[essay #3 due]**