SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES
An Introduction to Renaissance Drama
Junior Tutorial Seminar | David Nee | Spring 2016

Tues 4-6 | Location TBD
Office Hours MW 12-1 | 1 Bow St 331 | dnee@fas.harvard.edu | 617.949.9011

Course Description
The purpose of this tutorial is twofold. First, to prepare you to write the final assignment, a 20-25pp. research paper. Second, to deepen your understanding of Shakespeare’s plays and his unique place in literary history by reading him alongside his major contemporaries. Each week we will pair a Shakespearean play with a non-Shakespearean one that is linked to it by theme or genre. Secondary readings will frame our discussions and provide occasions for intensive engagement with criticism and scholarship. Since the tutorial is also intended to prepare you for writing a senior thesis, training in research methods and in critical writing will be a major emphasis of the course.

The following schedule of readings is provisional and will be changed to suit student needs and interests, which you are strongly encouraged to communicate to me.

Requirements
- Regular attendance and active, thoughtful participation 20%
- Weekly responses and other brief written assignments 20%
- Presentation on critical or theoretical reading 5%
- Mock topic exercise (due ) 5%
- Annotated bibliography and 2-page prospectus (due ) 10%
- Full draft of junior essay (due ) 15%
- 20-25 page junior essay (due ) 25%

In addition, students are required to schedule at least one consultation with the Departmental Writing Fellow.

Required texts

Schedule
Week 1 | Jan 27: Revenge Tragedy
Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
William Empson, "Hamlet," *Essays on Shakespeare*
Carla Mazzio, “Staging the Vernacular: Language and Nation in Thomas Kyd’s The Spanish Tragedy"
Week 2 | Feb 3: **Festive Comedy**
Thomas Nashe, *Summer's Last Will and Testament*
Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
C. L. Barber, "Prototypes of Festive Comedy"

Week 3 | Feb 10: **Roman Plays**
Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*
Ben Jonson, *Sejanus*
Blair Worden, "Ben Jonson Among the Historians"

Week 4 | Feb 17: **Library Consultation with Odile Joly**
Mock-topic assignment, due by email to David by 7PM Monday, Feb 16

Week 5 | Feb 24: **History I: Tragic Kings**
Christopher Marlowe, *Edward II*
Shakespeare, *Richard II*
Ernst Kantorowicz, *The King's Two Bodies*
Alan Bray, "Homosexuality and the Signs of Male Friendships in Elizabethan England"

Week 6 | Mar 3: **History II: Evil Rulers**
Marlowe, *Tamburlaine, Part I*
Shakespeare, *Richard III*
Lynne Magnusson, "Grammatical Theatricality in *Richard III*"

Week 7 | Mar 10 **Comedies of Domestication**
Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*
John Fletcher, *The Tamer Tamed*
Julia Lupton, "Animal Husbands in *The Taming of the Shrew*"

SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 8 | Mar 24: **Shakespeare and the Jews**
Marlowe, *The Jew of Malta*
Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
Walter Cohen, "*The Merchant of Venice* and the Possibilities of Historical Criticism"

Week 9 | Mar 31: **The Demonic**
Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*
Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
Kent Cartwright, "Scepticism and Theatre in *Macbeth*"

Week 10 | Apr 7: **Extreme Violence**
Thomas Middleton and Thomas Rowley, *The Changeling*
Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*
Marjorie Garber, "The Insincerity of Women"
Week 11 | Apr 14: **Domestic Tragedy**
Shakespeare, *Othello*
Thomas Heywood, *A Woman Killed with Kindness*
Anonymous, *Arden of Feversham*
Ian Smith, "Othello’s Black Handkerchief"

Week 12 | Apr 21: **Alchemy and Magic I**
Robert Greene, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*
Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist*
Erika Lin, *The Materiality of Performance*

Week 13 | Apr 28: **Alchemy and Magic II**
Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
Paul Kottman, *Disinheriting the Globe*

Junior Essay due on Tuesday, May 5, by 5PM in my Barker Mailbox.