

Senior Seminar (ENGL 4335)
Magic and Science on the Stage
Fall 2010
MWF 1-1:50 (CRN 16221)
Irby 304

Dr. Fowler
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Hours: M 10-11; 3-4
WF 2-4
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Texts: Greene **The Honourable Historie of Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay** (Dover)
Marlowe **Dr. Faustus** (Dover)
Shakespeare **The Tempest** (Dover)
Jonson **The Alchemist** (Dover)
Brecht **Galileo** (Grove)
Djerassi, Hoffmann **Oxygen** (Wiley-VCH)
Goethe **Faust** [Part One] (Oxford)
Lawrence, Lee **Inherit the Wind** (Ballantine)
Frayn **Copenhagen** (Anchor)
Parnell **QED** (Applause)

Course Description: As stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin, this is a “[r]equired capstone course for English majors in their senior year that may also satisfy upper-division genre or elective requirements. Others may enroll with permission of instructor. This variable-topics course crosses cultural, period, or genre lines. Students assemble a portfolio that demonstrates mastery of the course topic and reflection on the progress and culmination of their undergraduate literary studies.” This version of the course will show how such dramatic figures as the Renaissance magus or alchemist evolve into more recognizably modern scientific figures, themselves depicted in mixed terms of heroism and fallibility. In its largest dimensions, the course will provide a means of surveying the cultural periods from the Renaissance onward, with special emphasis on the dynamics between the realms of dramatic literature and science.

Course Objectives: Students taking this course will

- survey the progress of ideas since the Renaissance concerning deep knowledge and control of the physical world;
- sample one significant thematic strand of dramatic literature since the Renaissance;
- use this topic as a means of reflecting on other literature with which they are already familiar;
- deliver an oral report on a specific subtopic in the field;
- write a research paper on a particular play or theme in the course;
- demonstrate detailed, synthetic knowledge of the chosen plays on exams;
- present a portfolio that reflects their growth as English majors.

Course Schedule:

8/30	Greene: <i>Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay</i> (ca. 1589-91)	sc. i-v
9/1		sc. vi-x
9/3		sc. xi-xvi
	[Report: The Magus in Renaissance Lore]	
9/8	Marlowe: <i>Dr. Faustus</i> (ca. 1588-92)	sc. i-iv
9/10		sc. v-vii
9/13		sc. viii-xiv
9/15	Shakespeare: <i>The Tempest</i> (1611)	Act I
9/17		Acts II-III
9/20		Acts IV-V
9/22	Jonson: <i>The Alchemist</i> (1610)	Act I
9/24		Act II
9/27		Act III
9/29		Act IV
10/1		Act V
	[Report: Paracelsus's Alchemy]	
10/4	Brecht: <i>Galileo</i> (1947)	sc. 1-3
10/6		sc. 4-9
10/11		sc. 10-14
	Bentley: "The Science Fiction of Bertolt Brecht"	
	[Reports: The Scientific Revolution: Francis Bacon, Descartes, Galileo; Precursors to Galilean Astronomy: Copernicus and Kepler]	
10/13	Djerassi, Hoffmann: <i>Oxygen</i> (2001)	Act I (sc. 1-6)
10/15		Act II (sc. 7-12)
10/18	<i>(Oxygen cont.)</i>	
	[Report: Lavoisier: Founder of Modern Chemistry]	
10/20	[Passage Quiz #1]	
10/25	[Midterm Exam]	
10/27	Goethe: <i>Faust</i> Pt. One (1808)	Introduction and sc. 1-4
10/29		Introduction and sc. 5-7
11/1		sc. 8-12
	[Portfolio Due]	
11/3		sc. 13-23
11/5		sc. 24-28
	[Report: Goethe's Scientific Interests]	
11/8	Lawrence, Lee: <i>Inherit the Wind</i> (1955)	Act One
11/10		Act Two
11/12		Act Three
	[Report: The Scopes Monkey Trial]	

- 11/15 **Frayn: *Copenhagen* (1998)** Act One
 11/17 Act Two
 11/19 (*Copenhagen* cont.)
 11/22 Postscript
 [Reports: The Manhattan Project; Controversy over Frayn's Presentation of Werner Heisenberg in *Copenhagen*]
- 11/29 **[Research Paper Due]**
Parnell: *QED* (2002) Act One
 12/1 Act Two
 12/3 (*QED* cont.)
 [Report: C.P. Snow: *The Two Cultures*]
- 12/6 **[Passage Quiz #2]**
 12/8 Summation

Graded Assignments: The Midterm and Final Exams will be worth 100 points apiece. You will also take two objective, passage-based quizzes, the first worth 30 points, and the second 20 points. Your oral report will count for another 50 points. In addition, you will be presenting a portfolio (handout to follow) of your career as an English major worth 100 points. Finally, you will be writing a research paper (yet another handout to follow) worth 100 points. Thus, the total raw score for the course will be 500 points. I will convert your accumulated points to a number on a 100-point scale, then assign a letter grade in accordance with the following breakdown: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. I will round up average scores within a half-point of the next higher letter grade (e.g., an average of 79.5 would earn you a B).

Missed/Late Assignments: If you miss a semester exam, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to the next class session and arrange to take it. If for some very good reason you miss the Final Exam (Wed., Dec. 15 : 11 a.m.-1 p.m.), you must contact me and arrange to take it by Thursday of Finals Week (medical emergencies excepted). I reserve the right to assign a score of zero on the assignment if you fail to meet these rescheduling requirements.

My paper and portfolio deadlines are firm. A late one will be penalized one letter grade per calendar day.

Attendance: You may miss up to five class sessions, whatever your reasons. If you exceed that limit, you will either have to drop the course or be dropped by me. You may not leave class early; if you do so, you will be counted absent. If you arrive after I have taken roll or without the textbook, you will receive a one-half absence penalty. Please do not bring children to class. Turn off all beeping gadgets at the door.

Academic Integrity Statement: “The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.”

Plagiarism: Plagiarism, a form of academic misconduct and intellectual dishonesty, occurs when you present someone else's ideas or specific language as your own, intentionally neglecting to give due credit.

University Policies: You should be familiar with your rights and responsibilities as outlined in the Student Handbook. In particular, you should consult the Handbook on such matters as Academic Policies and the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Disabilities Statement: "The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3613."

Further Reading:

Durrenmatt: *The Physicists*

Kipphardt: *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*

Churchill: *A Number*