

# Early Modern Literature & Culture

## Syllabus

**Let's get this out of the way:** Like the preceding terms, winter term 2021/22 will be yet another experiment in pandemic pedagogics – albeit one where you will get to be on campus again (fingers crossed!). It is also my first term at the University of Passau, so please bear with me! Therefore, please keep in touch, make use of the time for open questions at the end of each lecture, and let me know if something does not work for you or if you have different ideas about how to do things. Let's do this together!

### class:

- **Monday, 14:15-15:45 [online]**  
Lectures will be approximately 70 minutes long (30 mins – a 10-minute break – 30 mins). We will use the last 20 minutes for open questions and discussion.

### contact:

- [office: PHIL 270, Innstraße 25]
- **e-mail:**
- **office hours:** Wednesday, 14:00-15:00 (and on appointment) on Zoom – please send me an e-mail for the Zoom link.
- **twitter:** @susannegruss

### resources:

- **StudIP:**

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<[http://www.londontown.com/LondonInformation/Entertainment/Shakespeares\\_Globe/8f9c/](http://www.londontown.com/LondonInformation/Entertainment/Shakespeares_Globe/8f9c/)>.

### course description:

This lecture will provide students with a survey of the history of early modern English literature and culture, covering the period from the late sixteenth to the late seventeenth century. We will look at important texts, authors, movements, and developments and place them in their historical and cultural contexts. Starting with the blossoming of (literary) culture at the court of Elizabeth I and the development of popular theatre, we will then move through Jacobean and Caroline England, the Civil War period, and the Restoration (of theatre). The lecture will focus on theatrical cultures and drama in particular, taking into consideration the works of William Shakespeare, Thomas Middleton, Ben Jonson, John Fletcher, Philip Massinger, or John Ford, to name but a few; genres such as (revenge) tragedy, (city) comedy, tragicomedy, the court masque, and restoration comedy; as well as collaborative approaches to writing and performing drama in the early modern period.

### e-mail and Zoom etiquette:

- Please give me some time to answer your **e-mails** (it might take up to 5 days). As a general rule, I will not write e-mails after 8pm or on weekends.
- Please **mute yourself** if you are not talking. If you feel uncomfortable talking into the camera (or if you have connection issues), feel free to use the **chat** to contribute to the discussion after the lecture.
- I obviously do not expect anyone to turn on their **camera** during the lecture proper but would still kindly ask you to do so during the last twenty minutes (pretty please?).
- Most of us will zoom from our **private spaces** – this means that my kids might make an appearance at some point (sorry). Zoom bombing family members, flatmates, or pets are always welcome.



- Our Zoom lecture should be a **safe space** for everyone. Recording (parts of) sessions or taking (and posting) screenshots is an absolute no-go. PowerPoints will be made available to you on StudIP.
  - I am not exempt from the occasional **technical blip** – please be patient if I freeze and simply wait for a couple of minutes. Like the terminator, I will be back, promised.
  - **Be kind (to yourself, to each other, and to me).**
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## Schedule

- 01**    18.10.21    *Organisation*  
 What does 'early modern' mean?  
poem of the day:  
 Walter Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" (1600)  
 (dialogue: Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love", before 1593)
- 02**    25.10.21    *The Tudors*  
 Henry VIII – Edward VI – Mary I – Elizabeth I  
 the Reformation – royal portraiture – gender & the female ruler  
poem of the day:  
 Thomas Wyatt, "Whoso List to Hunt" (1520s)
- 01.11.21    *All Hallows' Day*  
 (no class)
- 03**    08.11.21    *Sonnet Culture*  
 Writing the Male Lover?  
poem of the day:  
 Philip Sidney, "With How Sad Steps" (*Astrophil and Stella*, 1591)



- 04 15.11.21 *Court Culture*  
Philip Sidney – Mary Sidney Herbert – Mary Wroth  
poem of the day:  
Mary Wroth, “Love Leave to Urge” (*Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*, 1621)
- 05 22.11.21 *The Stage in Early Modern Popular Culture*  
stages – executions – bear baiting (& other entertainments)  
poem of the day:  
Ben Johnson, “On my First Son” (1603)
- 06 29.11.21 *The Inns of Court in Early Modern Legal Culture*  
audiences & dramatic genre(s)  
poem of the day:  
Isabella Whitney, “Her Will and Testament” (*A Sweet Nosegay*, 1573)
- 07 06.12.21 *William Shakespeare 1*  
dialogue: John Marston, indoor playhouses, boy actors  
poem of the day:  
William Shakespeare, Sonnet 116 (*Sonnets*, 1609)
- 08 13.12.21 *William Shakespeare 2*  
early modern collaboration (John Fletcher, Philip Massinger)  
dialogue: Shakespeare – Lanyer – *Emilia* (2018)  
poem of the day:  
Aemilia Lanyer, “Eve’s Apology in Defense of Women” (from *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*, 1611)
- 09 20.12.21 *The Stuarts*  
James I – Charles I  
absolutism – the court masque  
poem of the day:  
John Donne, “The Sun Rising” (1633)



- 27.12.21 *Christmas Buzak*  
03.01.22 (no class)
- 10 10.01.22 *Jacobean Drama*  
revenge tragedy – city comedy – tragicomedy  
poem of the day:  
Ben Jonson, “To Penshurst” (1616)  
(dialogue: Aemilia Lanyer, “The Description of Cooke-ham”, 1610)
- 11 17.01.22 *Metaphysical Poetry*  
John Donne – George Herbert – Andrew Marvell  
poem of the day:  
John Donne, “Twickenham Garden” (c.1608-09)  
(dialogue: Andrew Marvell, “The Garden”, posthum. 1681)
- 12 24.01.22 *The Civil War Period & the Restoration*  
guest lecture Prof. Dr. Lena Steveker (Université du Luxembourg)  
print culture – political pamphlets – closure of theatres – Restoration drama
- 13 31.01.22 *Exploring (& Colocising) the World*  
travel writing & pirate plays  
round-up & open questions  
poem of the day:  
Richard Lovelace, “To Lucrecia, Going to the Wars” (1649)
- 14 07.02.22 *Haikus / exam*
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