

Department of English & Writing Studies

Money in Renaissance Drama

English 3332G (001)

Winter 2023

Instructor: James Purkis
jpurkis@uwo.ca | UC4412**Course Location:** Physics and Astronomy
Building, Room 150Office Hours: Tue 11.30-12.30, Thu
11.30.12.30**Course Day/Time:** Tuesday 10.30-11.30,
Thursday 9.30-11.30

Land Acknowledgement

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Seventeenth-century England saw enormous changes in the distribution of money. Dramatists responded in diverse ways to the social disruption caused by new patterns of wealth and impoverishment. Plays studied on this half-course present cityscapes populated by predators and swindlers, nostalgic evocations of lordly hospitable practices, and meditations on greed.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will have attained:

- an increasingly advanced understanding of early modern drama and how it was created and first performed
- an understanding of the culture of early-modern England, particularly as it pertains to modern constructions of gender, religion, race, and money
- an understanding of money, wealth, hospitality, and friendship in early modern England
- a developing facility with a variety of approaches, theories, and techniques that can be applied to the study of dramatic literature, including a critical awareness of knowledge systems that shape our analysis of the text. This includes reference to Shakespeare's place in Eurocentric cultural, economic, and political power
- an ability to reflect on their own varied and intersecting positionalities and/or to think critically about ways in which the discipline reproduces existing power structures
- proficiency with the essential tools of literary scholarship (library catalogues, content databases)

- an introduction to specialized research tools and their uses
- a developing ability to analyze a piece of literature within its specific cultural context
- a developing ability to apply a variety of scholarly or theoretical approaches to the analysis of texts
- the opportunity to develop a clear, concise and compelling prose style, free of technical errors
- the opportunity to develop an ability to structure a complex and engaging argument
- the opportunity to develop the capacity to engage in class discussions and respond meaningfully to lecture material and peer discussion while using textual evidence as support

Course Materials

The texts studied on this course exist in different early and modern versions. No two modern editions of any of these plays are identical. Attending to the text that you use is essential. Classes will give references to, and use the texts of, the editions listed below. Bibliographic details of print copies of the plays are given below. There is no suitable single-volume print edition of George Lillo's *The London Merchant*. Electronic texts of these plays, with the exception of Massinger's *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*, are available through Western Libraries (<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/>) or The Folger Shakespeare Library (<https://www.folger.edu/>). Details of electronic texts are also given below. Print copies of *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* are on order at the Bookstore.

Print:

- Anon, *Everyman*, in *Three Late Medieval Morality Plays: Mankind, Everyman, and Mundus et Infans*, ed. G. A. Lester (London and New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2008)
- Jonson, Ben, *Volpone*, ed. Robert N. Watson (London and New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019)
- Shakespeare, William[, and Thomas Middleton], *Timon of Athens* The Folger Shakespeare. Ed. Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2020)
- Shakespeare, William, *The Merchant of Venice* The Folger Shakespeare. Ed. Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2010)
- Massinger, Philip, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*, ed. by T. W. Craik (London and New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 1993)

Electronic:

- *Everyman* and *Volpone* are available through the Drama Online database, accessible through Western Libraries (<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/>).
- *Timon* and *Merchant* are available through the Folger Shakespeare Library (<https://shakespeare.folger.edu/download/>). Other good scholarly texts (Arden Shakespeare Third Series) are available through Western Libraries through the Drama Online database.
- *The London Merchant* is available through Western Libraries through Eighteenth-Century Collections Online database. **Use the 1732 printing.**

You may use other editions of these plays that provide explanatory notes and have useful introductions.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Short response	10%	Due Fri 17 February
Passage analysis	10%	Unannounced
Table-work notes/write-up	15%	Due Mon 6 March / Fri 17 March
Essay	25%	Due Fri 31 March
Final exam	40%	April examination period

Description of Assignments:

SHORT RESPONSE.

Students will write a short response paper of around 800 words. The question will be set in class a week or so before the paper is due. Students may be asked to discuss a particular claim or question about a single play, to respond to a piece of critical reading, or analyze a performance. The possible formats for responses will be discussed in class.

PASSAGE ANALYSES.

Students will be given a short passage from the play currently under study and be asked to identify its dramatic context and reflect on its language, metre, and themes in relation to the rest of the play. You are not given notice of this analysis. An earlier class will prepare students for what is required to answer quizzes effectively.

TABLE-WORK NOTES AND WRITE-UP.

Table-work is an exploratory early stage of rehearsal, where actors typically read through the play and begin to work through ideas and interpretations, particularly of the character(s) that they will play. We will spend a week exploring two key scenes from *The Merchant of Venice* in preparation for an imaginary performance. Students will draft notes in advance of our first table-work session and then, at the end of the following week, write an 800-word reflection on the process. I will explain in class, and post on OWL, the scenes that we will work on and questions that should drive student preparation.

ESSAY.

A 2000-word essay. Questions will be given in class and posted on OWL around four weeks before it is due. Your essay must draw critically on at least one piece of secondary reading that is **directly** relevant to your topic. Spark notes and its equivalents on the market or internet sources such as Shmoop may be consulted (and if consulted, should be included in your bibliography), but do not fulfil this assignment's secondary reading requirement. Please note the warning about plagiarism elsewhere in the course guide. If you are unsure about your scholarly practice, please discuss it with your instructor.

FINAL EXAM.

The final, two-hour examination will be held during the April exam period (April 13-30).

A passing grade is required on both the essay and short response to satisfy the Senate requirement that to pass an "essay course" students must demonstrate "some minimal competence in essay writing".

General Information

I will usually answer email inquiries within 24 hours, Monday to Friday. It is almost always better to discuss complex ideas in person or on Zoom during office hours than through an exchange of emails.

Please submit electronic copies of all assignments through OWL.

You are each given THREE grace days, which you can use at once, or share between your assignments. When your grace days are gone, they are gone, and you are faced with a late assignment. In view of these days and of the advance notice given for each assignment, further extensions will only be given in accordance with a request for accommodation from academic counselling. If you submit an assignment after the due date and the expiration of your grace days, the grade will be reduced by a penalty of 2% for each calendar day that it is late. Note that Senate regulations stipulate that **all assignments must be completed by the last day of classes (April 10)**.

Students are responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/AcademicAccommodation_disabilities.pdf.

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-Based And Sexual Violence:

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education:

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning Development and Success:

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Timetable

This schedule is open to revision. We will certainly study these plays, but the timing may vary.

JANUARY

Tu 10 Introductions and info on texts
Th 12 *Everyman* and Medieval Drama
Tu 17 *Everyman*
Th 19 Ben Jonson, *Volpone*
Tu 24 Ben Jonson, *Volpone*
Th 26 Ben Jonson, *Volpone*
Tu 31 Ben Jonson, *Volpone*

FEBRUARY

Th 2 William Shakespeare (and Thomas Middleton?), *Timon of Athens*
Tu 7 William Shakespeare (and Thomas Middleton?), *Timon of Athens*
Th 9 William Shakespeare (and Thomas Middleton?), *Timon of Athens*
Tu 14 William Shakespeare (and Thomas Middleton?), *Timon of Athens*
Th 16 William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
18-26 SPRING READING WEEK | NO CLASSES
Tu 28 William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

MARCH

Th 2 William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
Tu 7 William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* **table-work week**
Th 9 William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
Tu 14 Philip Massinger, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*
Th 16 Philip Massinger, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*
Tu 21 Philip Massinger, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*
Th 23 Philip Massinger, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*
Tu 28 George Lillo, *The London Merchant*
Th 30 George Lillo, *The London Merchant*

APRIL

Th 4 George Lillo, *The London Merchant*
Tu 6 George Lillo, *The London Merchant*