COLFA Semester Abroad in Urbino, Italy
http://colfa.utsa.edu/urbino/

SHAKESPEARE'S ENGLAND AND ITALY

Instructor:
Dr. Bernadette Andrea,
Professor of English
University of Texas at San Antonio
bernadette.andrea@utsa.edu

Location:
Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo
(University of Urbino)

Course Description:
This course will examine the English fascination – and even obsession – with Italy during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This period, known as the Renaissance, was inspired by Italian innovations in art, literature, politics, and science from the fifteenth century onwards. Starting in the sixteenth century, English men (and some women) traveled to Italy, bringing its Renaissance themes and forms back home to infuse the literature of Shakespeare’s era. Roughly at the same time, one of the most influential treatises of the Italian Renaissance, Baldassar Castiglione’s Il Cortegiano, was translated into English as The Book of the Courtier. Set in the court of Urbino, it profoundly influenced Renaissance modes of politics, and informed – sometimes through parody – the theater of Shakespeare’s day. Beginning with narratives from early modern English travelers and with a close reading of Castiglione’s The Courtier, we will turn to a range of English dramas focusing on Italy: from Shakespeare and his contemporaries to the first Englishwoman playwright for the public stage, Aphra Behn. Italy in the English plays we will study is often no more than a projection of English desires and fears regarding gender relations, sexuality, religion, and politics. But it is more than that: Italy as Renaissance England’s “near” other was compelling as a model and a foil. Our engagement with these plays will be enriched by the setting of our class in Urbino, the site of The Courtier, and by trips to Verona and Venice (settings for Shakespeare’s Italianate plays).

Course Texts:
I have ordered the following texts for this course. The first two are required, as we will be reading the critical essays along with the primary texts. You may use any scholarly edition of the plays. If you have any questions about these texts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hadfield, Andrew, ed.</td>
<td>Amazons, Savages, and Machiavels: Travel and Colonial Writing in English, 1550-1630: An Anthology</td>
<td>Oxford University Press</td>
<td>2001 0198711867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castiglione, Baldesar</td>
<td>The Book of the Courtier</td>
<td>Norton</td>
<td>2002 0393976068</td>
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The following background reading is available in E-book format through the UTSA Library:


I will post additional recommended readings and websites on our Blackboard page as the course progresses.

**Course Schedule:**
All students are responsible for the required reading, which should be done prior to the class in which we discuss it. Students enrolled in graduate sections of the course are also responsible for the recommended reading; however, all students are encouraged to consult these additional readings for their research papers. Readings are either from the course texts listed above or from electronic texts listed on Blackboard as pdfs or weblinks.

This schedule is subject to change as the class unfolds; all changes will be discussed in class; all students are responsible for keeping abreast of these changes.

Our classes meet from 10 am to 1 pm at the University of Urbino on the dates listed below. Further details about our trip to Verona and Venice will be posted on Blackboard. This trip also constitutes part of our class time; we will let you know what tours are required of all students and which tours are optional.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Recommended Reading</th>
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| Week One: English Travelers in Renaissance Italy | • Syllabus  
• “Motives for Travellers and Instructions for” | • Alison Games, *The Web of Empire* (UTSA E-Book), 17-46. |
<p>| Tues. 1/17                    |                                                                                  |                            |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Discussions</th>
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• Games, *The Web of Empire* (UTSA E-Book), 47-79. | • Selections from first editions of Coryate and Moryson (Blackboard).         |
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Blackboard).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Quondam, Berger).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Cox, Javitch, Saccone).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Kelly-Gadol, Quint, Rebhorn).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Hankins, Burke).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Cox, Javitch, Saccone).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Kelly-Gadol, Quint, Rebhorn).  
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• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Hankins, Burke).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Kelly-Gadol, Quint, Rebhorn).  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Hankins, Burke).  
| Thurs. 1/26 | • Castiglione, Book Four *Book of the Courtier*, 207-60.  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Hankins, Burke).  
| Week Three: Shakespeare’s Italian Plays | • Castiglione, Book Four *Book of the Courtier*, 207-60.  
• Critical Essays from Norton Critical Edition (Hankins, Burke).  
| Mon. 1/30 | • *Two Gentleman of Verona* (1594)  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in* | • Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in*  
| Tues. 1/31 | • *The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* (1595-96)  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in* | • Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in*  
| Wed. 2/1 | • *The Comical History of the Merchant of Venice, or*  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in* | • Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from D’Amico, *Shakespeare and Italy* (UTSA E-Book).  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in*  
• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, *Visions of Venice in* |
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<tr>
<th>Thurs. 2/2</th>
<th>Otherwise Called the Jew of Venice (1596-97)</th>
<th>Shakespeare (UTSA E-Book)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• The Tragedy of Othello, The Moor of Venice (1604)</td>
<td>• Selections from Tosi and Bassi, Visions of Venice in Shakespeare (UTSA E-Book)</td>
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| Fri. 2/3 to Mon. 2/6 | Trip to Verona and Venice | See separate itinerary. |

**Week Four:**
Seventeenth-Century English Drama in Italy

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<td>• Redmond, Chapter 2 (“Italianate Englishman”), <em>Shakespeare, Politics, and Italy</em> (UTSA E-Book).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 2/8</td>
<td>John Webster, The Tragedy of the Duchess of Malfi (1623)</td>
<td>Redmond, Chapter 3 (“Staging Italian Political Theory for a London Audience”), <em>Shakespeare, Politics, and Italy</em> (UTSA E-Book).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 2/7</td>
<td>Ben Jonson, Volpone, or the Fox. A Comedy (1605)</td>
<td>Redmond, Chapter 3 (“Staging Italian Political Theory for a London Audience”), <em>Shakespeare, Politics, and Italy</em> (UTSA E-Book).</td>
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Assignments for the class will consist of regular in-class writing on the required reading for the day (30%), short response papers at the end of each week (4 x 10%), and a final research paper or project due after the end of the course (Prospectus 5%; Annotated Bibliography 10%; Final Paper 15%). Assignments will build on each other, with students receiving extensive feedback from me. Class participation will weigh into the final grade.

I will provide detailed instructions for each assignment in class, as well as post them on our Blackboard page. As this class involves multiple cross-listings, I will meet individually with you at least once during our time in Urbino to discuss your final research paper or project. I will be available afterwards by email to answer any further questions.

**Class Policies:**
In addition to the standard class policies below, our study abroad is governed by the policies set by the Office of International Programs at http://international.utsa.edu/. I am a resource for you.
throughout our time together in Italy, so don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns, academic or otherwise.

Our standard class policies are based on department, college, and university policies. They are meant to optimize the learning experience for each class member. If you have any questions or comments about these policies, please feel free to speak with me.

- **Attendance:** Attendance at all class sessions is required, as per UTSA policy; it is especially important in a Study Abroad course. Your grade will be affected by any absences or tardiness (1% reduction for each complete or partial hour missed). If you have any concerns about your attendance, please contact me immediately.

- **Classroom Environment:** UTSA’s statement on “Civility in the Classroom” stresses that “students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.”

Our goal is to create a classroom that fosters mutual respect among all participants. We may have differences of interests, approaches, ideologies, politics, academic experience, and personal backgrounds. However, we will seek to engage these differences from intellectually open and informed perspectives, and refrain from disruptive behaviors. If you have concerns about the course, the instructor, or other students, you are invited to express your concerns in a constructive manner to me. I am open to suggestions at any point in the semester about modifying the course to best suit the participants’ needs and interests.

The responsibility to conduct oneself in a fair and respectful manner also extends to evaluations of the course. Student evaluations are designed to be diagnostic and constructive. Student evaluations are not the space to displace and enact frustrations over the course material, perceived differences with the instructor, dissatisfaction with grades, or poor performance on assignments. While student evaluations are confidential, faculty reserve the right to address any misinformation or inaccurate depictions of the course and instruction.

- **Disability Services:** Support services, including registration assistance and equipment, are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), MS 2.03.19. Students are encouraged to contact that office at 458-4157 prior to starting classes to make arrangements, though they can contact the office at any time.

- **Electronic Equipment:** Laptops are permitted in the classroom only to take notes or to consult electronic versions of required texts for the class and only with the explicit permission of the instructor. They are not to be used for activities unrelated to the course (websurfing, checking email, working on assignments related to other classes, etc.). Such activities interfere with the classroom experience for everybody, particularly in a seminar
Students who engage in non-class related activities will not be allowed to use their laptop and may face a reduction of their participation grade. This policy covers similar electronic devices, including cell phones (no texting during class, etc.). In addition, please let me know in advance if you are recording the lecture. This syllabus cannot be posted on the internet or otherwise distributed without the instructor’s written permission nor can any recordings of the lectures.

- **Plagiarism and Collusion**: UTSA defines “scholastic dishonesty” as including but not limited to “cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.” For further details, see the UTSA Student Code of Conduct at http://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.html.