

## ENGL 2307: Introduction to Renaissance Drama: Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

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Course Description: The English Renaissance, perhaps more than any other literary period, is often identified with a single author: William Shakespeare. Yet, even as contemporary popular culture spends so much time using Shakespeare as a touchstone for the entirety of all English drama, the Renaissance is a period of exceptional literary and dramatic development.

Shakespeare, along with his contemporaries Ben Jonson, Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, and Anthony Munday, established English drama as a serious literary enterprise and as a subject worthy of in-depth critical analysis. In this course, we will examine plays by all of these playwrights with an eye not only to give students a passing familiarity with their work, but to also teach students how to critically engage with important literary works that were written in a different historical and cultural context.

Course Requirements: There will be four major papers. There will also be pop quizzes.

Text required for the course: *The Norton Anthology of Drama: Antiquity Through the Eighteenth Century (Vol.1)* (Note: The Norton comes in different versions. There is a volume 2 which is also available for sale, but we are not using it. There is also a *The Norton Anthology of Drama* that has a green cover. It is not the correct text. If you are confused about which one to use, follow this [link](#) to Amazon to see what the text looks like.)