Course Policy

I. Objectives. In this course we will read plays written and produced in England between 1660 and the early 20th century. Because the theater reflects and responds to the culture of its time to an unusual degree, we will examine the plays on the reading list with an eye to several matters: the political and historical contexts in which the plays appeared; the regulation of the stage and the publication practices of playwrights; questions of staging--e.g., acting, scene design, and costuming; and the bellettristic qualities (or lack thereof) of the plays themselves. As an effort to think about the plays as more than purely literary documents, we will read portions of scenes from many of them in class and discuss at length the larger question of what it means to “read” a play.

II. Texts.

F. Speedway packet, containing plays and other materials.

III. Requirements.

A. Two ten-minute presentations, each of which will address the ways in which an assigned essay illuminates a scene in or a problem raised by the play scheduled for discussion. (A student making a presentation will effectively help lead class discussion on the day on which he or she presents.) 20% (10% each)
B. One three to five-page essay, which will critique an article on a play scheduled for discussion. 20%
C. One 15 to 20-page paper, on a topic of your choice, selected with Prof. Hedrick's guidance and approval. (For due dates, see schedule.) (40%)
D. A draft of this essay, which will be commented on and returned to you for revision. (The grade you get on your finished paper will replace the grade you get on your draft.)
E. Participation in class discussions. 20%

Note: You must complete all the above assignments, including the paper draft, in order to pass the course.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.
Course Schedule - REVISED

August
27  Introduction

September
1  Dream of the Rood, Battle of Maldon
3  Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
8  Gawain, concluded
10  Shakespeare: Henry IV, Act 1
15  Henry IV, Act 1
17  Henry IV, Acts 2 and 3; QUIZ #1
22  Henry IV, Acts 4 and 5
24  Milton: Paradise Lost, Book I
29  Paradise Lost, Books I and II

October
1  Paradise Lost, Books II and IX; QUIZ #2
6  Paradise Lost, Book IX
8  Paradise Lost, Books IX and XII (selections)
13  MID-TERM TEST
15  Pope: Rape of the Lock, Cantos 1 and 2
20  Pope: Rape of the Lock, Cantos 3 through 5
22  Swift: Gulliver's Travels, Book I
27  Johnson: Preface to Shakespeare
29  Wordsworth: Preface to Lyrical Ballads; Keats: "Ode on Melancholy"; QUIZ #3

November
3  Keats: "Ode on Melancholy," "Ode to a Nightingale"
5  Shelley: Frankenstein
10  Frankenstein, concluded
12  Tennyson: "Mariana," "Tithonus"
17  Rossetti: "Goblin Market"
19  Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"; QUIZ #4
24  "Prufrock," concluded; Beckett, Happy Days
26  NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

December
1  Happy Days, concluded; course evaluation
3  SECOND TEST

This schedule is subject to revision.