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English 664

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ENGL 664, Jonathan Burton, Fall 2007

English 664: The Global Early Modern

Professor Jonathan Burton

This course will examine recent attempts to consider the English Renaissance in a global perspective. In particular, we will consider poetry and drama that engages with Europe's and more specifically England's transforming relationships with Islam and the East. We will also consider how Renaissance Studies as a discipline has been shaped by Anglo-American relationships with Islamic nation-states after the Cold War, and particularly in the contexts of the September 11 attacks and the American led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

While focusing on early modern representations of Islam, our readings will be centered in the English Renaissance. Yet in order to understand how our understanding of the Muslim world has been shaped by centuries-old literary traditions, as well as how the

events of September 11 and its aftermath shape the way in which we look back at the Renaissance, our readings will range from Middle English romances to a post-9/11 adaptation of *Hamlet* set in an unnamed Muslim country.

Literary readings will include the works of both canonical and little-known English authors and several non-English works (in translation) by Torquato Tasso, Leo Africanus, Ahmad Ibn Qasim al-Hajari, and Uruch Beg (aka, Don Juan of Persia). In addition we will look at two more recent plays engaging the course's central questions.

Assignments:

Six 2-3 page papers: Completed any six weeks prior to week 14. Respond to the week's assigned secondary reading beginning with a one ¶ summary of the argument, a one ¶ summary of a key issue you will address, followed by either an application to one of our primary texts or an extended assessment of the argument.

Annotated Bibliography: A bibliography of 8-10 secondary sources relevant to any one assigned primary text, or an issue broached in class readings/discussions. Bibliographies should be prefaced by a 3-4 paragraph introduction to the central questions or issues binding these sources. Annotations to each item should indicate (1) the main argument of the source; and (2) how/where the source engages with issues raised in one or more of the other items in your bibliography.

Conference length paper: An 8-9 page paper (not including notes), drawing on the research conducted for your annotated bibliography.

Schedule of Assignments

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Week 1 (8/23)

Introduction to the Global Renaissance/Early Modern
Classical and Biblical Precedents

Week 2 (8/30): Pilgrimage

[The Voyages and Travailes of Sir John Mandevile Knight, chapters
6, 15, 22, 23, 24](#)

Geoffrey Chaucer, [The Man of Laws Tale](#)

Edward Said, Extract from *Orientalism* (Electronic Reserve)

Lisa Lampert, "Race, Periodicity, and the (Neo-) Middle Ages" *MLQ: Modern Language Quarterly* 65.3 (2004) 391-421 (via eJournals)

Week 3 (9/6): Romance

"The Muslim Warrior and the Christian Maiden," from *The Thousand and One Nights* (ER)

[The Sultan of Babylon \(c. 1400\)](#)

Maria Rosa Menocal, Excerpts from *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History: A Forgotten Heritage* (ER)

Lynda Shaffer, "Southernization" (1994) in *The New World History* (ER)

Recommended: Franco Moretti, [Conjectures on World Literature](#), *New Left Review*, Jan/ Feb, 2000

Week 4 (9/13): Holy War

Erasmus of Rotterdam, "De Bello Turcico" (1530) (ER)

Torquato Tasso, [Jerusalem Liberated](#) (1575, trans. 1600), Books 2, 4, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20

Henry Smith, *Gods Arrowe against Atheists* (1593) [EEBO images 32-38]

Daniel Goffman, "Ottomanocentrism and the West" (ER)

Recommended: Bernard Lewis, [The Roots of Muslim Rage](#)

Week 5 (9/20): The Prophet and His Book

John Lydgate, Extract from *The Fall of Princes* (c. 1440) on Muhammad (Handout)

William Biddulph, *The Travels of Certaine Englishmen* (1609) 49-62 {EEBO images 36-43}

William Bedwell, *Mohammedis Imposturae* (1613) [EEBO images 1-39]

Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism* pp. 31-67 (ER)

Week 6 (9/27): Guest Lecture: Eric Dursteler, "Renegade Women: Gender, Conversion and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean." Greenbrier Room

Barbara Fuchs, "Faithless Empires: Pirates, Renegades and the English Nation," *ELH* 67:1 (2000), pp. 45-69. (via eJournals)

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Introduction to *Provincializing Europe* (ER)

Week 7 (10/4): Spanish Saracens

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, "The Captive's Tale" from *Don Quixote* (ER)

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* Book 1

Jerry Brotton, "St. George between East & West" in *Re-Orienting the Renaissance* (ER)

Deborah Root, "Speaking Christian: Orthodoxy and Difference in Sixteenth-Century Spain," *Representations* 23 (Summer 1988) 118-34 (via eJournals)

Recommended: Walter Cohen, [Don Quijote and The Intercontinental History of the Novel](#)

Barbara Fuchs, "1492 and the Cleaving of Hispanism" *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 37.3 (Fall 2007). (via eJournals)

Benedict Robinson, "The Secret Faith of Spenser's Saracens" *Spenser Studies* 17 (2003), 37-73.

Week 8 (10/11): Travel Writing

Andrew Hadfield, ed. *Amazons, Savages, and Machiavels*

Nabil Matar, *In the Lands of the Christians*, xiii-44 (ER)

Week 9 (10/18): Marlowe I

Christopher Marlowe, *Tamburlaine* Parts 1 and 2

Sanjay Subrahmanyam, "On World Historians in the Sixteenth Century" *Representations* 91 (Summer 2005), 26-57 (via eJournals)

Recommended: Linda McJannet, *The Sultan Speaks: Dialogue in English Plays and Histories about the Ottoman Turks*, Chapter 3.

Week 10 (10/25): Marlowe II

Halide Edib, *Masks or Souls?* (Handout)

Christopher Marlowe, *The Jew of Malta*

Recommended: Richard Wilson, "Another Country: Marlowe and the Go-Between" in *Remapping the Mediterranean World in Early Modern English Writings* (Reserve)

Week 11 (11/1): Shakespeare I

William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

Andre Gunder Frank, *Re-Orient: Global Economy in the Asian Age* pp. 1-24 (ER)

R. Bin Wong, "Early Modern Economic History in the Long Run"

Science & Society 68: 1 (Spring 2004), 80-90 (via eJournals).

Recommended: Janet Adelman, "Her Father's Blood: Race, Conversion, and Nation in The Merchant of Venice" *Representations* 81 (Winter2003), 4-30 (via eJournals).

Week 12 (11/8): Shakespeare II

William Shakespeare, *Othello*

Joannes Leo Africanus, excerpts from *A Geographical Historie of Africa*

Ania Loomba, "Periodization, Race, and Global Contact" *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 37.3 (Fall 2007) (via eJournals)

Recommended: Julia Reinhard Lupton, "Othello Circumcised: Shakespeare and the Pauline Discourse of Nations " *Representations*, No. 57 (Winter, 1997), pp. 73-89 (via eJournals)

Week 13 (11/15): Turk Plays

A Christian Turned Turk and *The Renegado* in Daniel Vitkus, ed.

* *Three Turk Plays*

Recommended: Jonathan Burton, *Traffic and Turning*, chapters 2 and 3 (Reserve)

Week 14 (11/29): Persia

The Three English Brothers

Don Juan of Persia pp. 45-57, 222-27, 231-40, 251-62, 279-88(ER)

Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 15 (12/6): The Renaissance after 9/11

Sulayman al-Bassam, *The al-Hamlet Summit*

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