



Dr. Simon C. Estok, Professor  
Course syllabus

English 5136: 르네상스자아형성 (Renaissance Self-fashioning)

Friday 12:00 – 14:45

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Reading schedule and homework assignments are available only at

<http://www.simonestok.com/>

Instructions:

1] Click the course number on the left hand side

2] You will need to log in.

-for the email, type in block letters: STUDENT

-for the password, type in block letters: ENGLISH

### **Course description**

This course will enable students to understand how characters self-construct and create public images of their personae in the drama of the early modern period. It was a time of profound social and political change in England, and these changes are reflected in and aided by the literature that was being produced at the time.

Shakespeare is only one of four playwrights we will study in this course. While he is, of course, the brightest star in the Renaissance skies, there were many other writers who were producing important and influential plays at that time.

We will begin with Shakespeare's *Othello* and move thematically into another text that well exemplifies the growing individualism of the time: Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*. Both plays allow us to examine theoretical issues of self-fashioning within the historical context of an expanding empire, a shrinking world (one, at least, that was becoming more accessible), and a meeting of vastly different cultures. Faustus is a character who is in many ways a conduit and transitional figure who leads directly to the fiercely individualist ethos that has come to characterize the West.

From *Doctor Faustus*, we move into John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*, a play that allows us to explore deeply class issues, the socio-economic climate of early modern England, and gender. We will analyze and theorize about how these issues influence and determine the parameters of Renaissance self-fashioning within *The Duchess of Malfi* specifically and early modern drama in general.

Finally, we will dig deeply into one of the eras most famous victims of pathological individualism: Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

Each of the plays we read provide startling and emblematic examples of Renaissance self-fashioning.

As always in my courses, one of the main questions we will be pursuing is about how the literature of the past has had and continues to have profound effects on the world

and why it is therefore an extremely important area of study in this age of increasing globalization.

### **Core texts**

- William Shakespeare. *King Lear, Othello* (any editions)
- Christopher Marlowe. *Doctor Faustus* (any edition)
- John Webster. *The Duchess of Malfi* (any edition)
- Stephen Greenblatt. *Renaissance Self-Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare* (selections will be distributed in class)
- Course reading packet.

### **Evaluation**

There are no essays to write in this course.

<b>Assignment/Discussion</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>

Assignment/Discussion=30%: There will be ten weekly writing assignments, each worth 3% (students will write “reading notes” for each assignment using the instructions below).

Others= 30%: There will be ten quizzes, each worth 1% (10%). The midterm quiz and the final quiz are each worth 5% (total 10%). There will be 1% given for participation for each class (10%).

Presentation=30%. Lead class discussion one week: Please choose a week to lead class discussion about that week's reading. What leading class discussion means is that you come prepared to get the discussion of the reading started--this may mean you bring handouts, have prepared focused questions, or other means. You must have read the material thoroughly and be prepared with a perspective or angle of approach to the material. You will need to do at least the following: a) provide an overview of the text's main points (often drawing on secondary literature), b) provide a critical response (perhaps in relation to course themes, or empirical concerns, etc.), and c) make an argument, or at least begin to try. **DO NOT read** from a prepared script (and do not come in with a memorized script either), or you will not get credit for the exercise. Leading a discussion means that you are familiar enough with the material to talk and *lead a discussion* for an hour or so. You may choose any article from the required or supplementary reading list.

Attendance: 10%

### **Reading notes**

Reading notes are written assignments to be submitted at the beginning of each class. The notes should explore aspects of the text that was assigned. As far as length is concerned, the notes need only consist of two paragraphs. These two paragraphs have to be worked out in a rather rigid manner:

- The first paragraph presents an observation. In other words, regardless of whether you read a literary or theoretical text, you should make an observation about something that strikes you as odd, interesting, plain wrong, etc. This might entail questions of word choice (particularly when dealing with poetry), characterization, logic, atmosphere, meter, etc. You might want to begin your Reading Notes with a strong sentence, indicating what you have noticed, followed by a couple of sentences in support of your observation.
- The second paragraph then explores the consequences that in your opinion need be drawn from the observation, i.e. the previous paragraph. What conclusions can be drawn from your observation? This question does not mean that you have to consult secondary material--a frequently asked question--since I am primarily interested in your opinion, your thinking skills. Be aware that the general rules regarding plagiarism, however, do apply also for response papers. If you have no observation to make, please contact me rather than dressing somebody else's original work up as your own.

The reason why I believe Reading Notes to be very helpful is mainly that they introduce you to syllogistic reasoning as well as they help you with writing skills. Not only is this specifically relevant for all the term papers you have to write throughout your time at university; these thinking and writing skills more likely than not will be of good service to you in almost any profession.

**Academic conduct:**

Attendance in this course is mandatory. If students do not attend, then they may do poorly or even fail (*students who miss one-third or more of a course will not be able to pass the course*). In addition, students should come to class **on time**. Students who are habitually late without good reason will lose marks.

Finally, cheating of any kind will be severely punished: the University expects everyone to conduct their academic work with diligence, honesty, and sincerity.