Title of Course: English Drama before 1800

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course: A study of English drama from Medieval, Sixteenth-Century, Seventeenth-Century, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century dramatists, excluding Shakespeare. (3 cr.)

II. Prerequisites: EN140 or equivalent and any 200 level literature course.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

A. To offer for study a range of early English drama from Medieval, Sixteenth-Century, Seventeenth-Century, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century dramatists.
B. To provide experiences in close reading and analysis
C. To provide writing experiences which combine close reading with individual interpretation and which also provide opportunities for synthesis of both primary and critical readings
D. To provide opportunities for original interpretations and research

IV. Expectations of Students:

A. To come prepared to discuss passages, scenes, and questions that are raised in their readings
B. To complete weekly journal responses
C. To demonstrate the ability to do literary research and to choose sources wisely
D. To produce their own interpretation of texts through close reading
E. To integrate and synthesize their own interpretations with other critical sources
G. To attend class regularly and to complete satisfactorily all work in the course
H. To take a midterm and a final examination

V. Course Content or Outline may vary, but will include some of the following:

1. Medieval Drama -- 12 hours
   A. The Wakefield Master, *The Second Shepherd's Play*
   B. *Everyman*
   C. *Mankind*
   D. *The Castle of Perseverance*

2. Sixteenth Century Drama - 12 hours
   A. Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
   B. Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*
Ben Jonson, *Volpone*
Anonymous, *Arden of Faversham*
Thomas Dekker, *The Shoemakers' Holiday*

3. Seventeen Century Drama - 9 hours
   - Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling*
   - John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*
   - Elizabeth Carey, *The Tragedy of Miriam*
   - Thomas Heywood, *A Woman Killed with Kindness*

4. Restoration Drama - 6 hours
   - John Dryden, *Marriage à la Mode*
   - Margaret Cavendish, *The Convent of Pleasure*
   - Aphra Behn, *The Rover*
   - William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*
   - William Congreve, *The Way of the World*

5. Eighteenth-Century Drama - 6 hours
   - John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*
   - Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*
   - Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*

VI. Textbooks:

   There is no comprehensive anthology available of English playwrights before
   1800. The rental text for this course will be *Renaissance Drama: An Anthology of*
   in the course will be available for purchase in the University Bookstore.

VI. Basis for Student Evaluation:

   A. One 3-5 page close reading analysis of a primary text* 10%
   B. One eight-page critically researched, interpretive essay** 20%
   C. Reader response journal 10%
   D. Midterm examination 25%
   E. Final examination 25%
   F. Class Participation 10%

* Students seeking graduate credit for the course will be expected to write
  5-7 pages for this assignment.

** Students seeking graduate credit for the course will be expected to write
  12-15 pages for this assignment as well as use more secondary sources.

Composed by Dr. Stephanie Chamberlain