

Dr. Vin Nardizzi (he/him/his)
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Office: BuTo 425
Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm

English 348 **001 (3 credits)**
MWF 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Room: WMSW 205

Will & Kit: Influence and Sexuality in Shakespeare and Marlowe

In this course we shall explore the careers of two of Renaissance England's most celebrated literary contemporaries, Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593) and William Shakespeare (1564-1616). Typically, we'll examine some of their major works in pairs to investigate how each engages comparable subject matter (the suspect English monarch, for example) and similar literary form (the history play). Our efforts, in the first instance, will be directed toward elaborating two critical commonplaces about Shakespeare and Marlowe: first, that because the innovative and popular Kit Marlowe predeceased Will Shakespeare by some 23 years, he exerted a profound influence over Shakespeare's dramaturgy and poetry; second, that "Marlowe" – his life and his literature – functions in contemporary scholarship as shorthand for *sodomy*, a crime encompassing but not limited to homosexuality, whereas "Shakespeare" serves to establish and secure a heterosexual imaginary. We'll of course work to unsettle these commonplaces not simply by highlighting counterexamples – there *is* homosexuality in Shakespeare – but, more importantly, by thinking about the usefulness of the interpretive scaffolding that has made them both possible and plausible: biography.

By the end of this course, you will have learned a great deal about English Renaissance drama; the literary history of sexuality in England and the places of the law and biography in this history; definitions for English history (monarchy, political disruption and revolution, Reformation politics, fact and fiction) and English representations of other religions, including Judaism and Islam. You will also be able to discuss gender, sex, religion, and race in these texts and, by extension, in the broader culture of Renaissance England.

Our **required** course texts are available at the UBC Bookstore:

Christopher Marlowe, *The Complete Plays* (Penguin)
William Shakespeare, *Henry VI, Part 1*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Richard II*, *Richard III*, and *The Tempest* (Arden)

Please access the films / tv shows on your own.

There will be three short papers (**60%**) and a final exam (**30%**). The remainder of your course mark (**10%**) will be determined by attendance and class participation. You are expected to attend lectures, take notes, and contribute meaningfully to classroom conversations. I do not accept late papers without an excuse.

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles. It also recognizes that sometimes crises arise, and so there are additional resources to access, including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty, and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>

Attendance Policy: <http://english.ubc.ca/resources/resources-for-students/#attendance>

Plagiarism Policy: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity/>

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09-04	Introductions
09-06	“The Baines Note” (1593)
09-09 to 09-16	Marlowe, <i>Tamburlaine the Great, Part 1</i> (1587)
09-18 & 09-20	No Class
09-23 to 09-27	Shakespeare, * <i>Henry VI, Part 1</i> (1592)
09-30 to 10-04	Shakespeare, <i>Richard III</i> (1592-3)
10-04	Paper #1 Due
10-07 to 10-11	Marlowe, <i>Edward II</i> (c. 1592)
10-14	Thanksgiving
10-16	<i>Edward II</i> (dir. Derek Jarman, 1991)
10-18 to 10-23	Shakespeare, <i>Richard II</i> (1594-96)
10-25	<i>The Hollow Crown</i> (dir. Rupert Goold, 2012) Episode 1
10-28 to 11-01	Marlowe, <i>The Jew of Malta</i> (c. 1590)
11-04 to 11-08	Shakespeare, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (1596)
11-08	Paper # 2 Due
11-11	Remembrance Day
11-13 to 11-15	No Class
11-18 to 11-22	Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (1588-92)
11-25 to 11-29	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> (1611)
11-29	Paper # 3 Due
Final Exam:	TBA