

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH GRADUATE COURSES**

SUMMER 2021

**ENGLISH 503 A01 SPECIAL STUDIES:
A Colonial Library
(1.5 units)
Dr. Misao Dean**

This course, delivered partly by zoom and partly at Point Ellice House Heritage Museum in Victoria, offers students the chance to do a research project based on the library at Point Ellice House and on the history of reading in Victoria. In zoom classes students will learn protocols for research in archives and using museum artifacts, history of the book as a material object, methods for researching the ways books were used by different readers, and basic information about reading, writing, publishing, and book distribution in early Canada. In addition, students will learn from Point Ellice House Executive Director Kelly Black and curatorial assistant Christeah Dupont how books form part of the museum collection. They will then complete a research project under our joint guidance on reading culture in nineteenth and early twentieth-century Victoria, including scheduled visits to Point Ellice House to access the collection safely. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the ways that the circulation of printed books created and perpetuated a colonial system of power distribution that marginalized the non-white and non-British. The students will prepare blog posts for the Point Ellice website during the course, and complete an article-length research essay.

Tentative Texts:

Selections from *The Broadview Reader of Book History*, *The History of the Book in Canada*, *Come, Bright Improvement: The Literary Societies of Nineteenth-Century Ontario*, articles on the social and cultural history of Victoria and British Columbia.

Tentative Assignments:

Weekly blog posts 5x10%; Public facing project for PEH 25%; Essay 25%

**ENGLISH 520 A01 STUDIES IN RENAISSANCE LITERATURE
Shakespeare with his Contemporaries
(1.5 units)
Dr. Erin Kelly**

News stories seem to assume the general public will be surprised when a scholar says a play we think of as “by Shakespeare” shows the influence of other writers. (For example, *The Guardian* announced “Christopher Marlowe credited as one of Shakespeare's co-writers” when the New Oxford Shakespeare identified passages likely written by Christopher Marlowe in the *Henry VI* plays.) But Shakespeare scholars have long recognized that some of what we call Shakespeare’s plays are co-authored, several bear marks of writing or revision by other playwrights, and surely were influenced by contemporary theatrical practices and trends. The gap between popular and expert understandings of how sixteenth- and seventeenth-century plays, including those by Shakespeare, came into being invites exploration of the early modern culture of playwriting.

This course seeks to introduce (or reintroduce) students – both early modernists and those with an interest in literary history more generally – to the works of Shakespeare in the context of plays by his contemporaries.

Putting into conversation with one another texts that influenced Shakespeare and those that were influenced by him makes possible not just critical analysis of Shakespeare's plays but also rethinking of literary history, theatre history, performance theory, and editorial traditions.

Old and new historical as well as textual studies methodologies will guide much of the discussion in this course, but students will be strongly encouraged to bring their own interests and perspectives to bear on their final seminar paper projects.

Tentative Texts:

To make the broad subject matter of this class manageable to explore in a six-week summer session, readings will center around three themes:

- Shrews and shrew plays:
 - Anonymous, *The Taming of a Shrew*
 - Anonymous, *Tom Tyler*
 - John Fletcher, *The Woman's Prize, or, The Tamer Tamed*
 - William Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*
- Writing and rewriting revenge:
 - Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
 - Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*
 - William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
 - Cyril Tourneur, *The Atheist's Tragedy*
- The history of history plays:
 - Anonymous, *Famous Victories of Henry V*
 - Thomas Heywood, *Edward IV, Parts 1 and 2*
 - Christopher Marlowe, *Edward II*
 - William Shakespeare, *Richard II* and *1 Henry IV*

Note that students are strongly encouraged to read (or reread) the plays by Shakespeare underlined above to prepare for this course. Critical and contextual readings will be provided largely through introductions in carefully selected editions but also through links to select articles and book chapters.

Tentative Assignments:

Literary text/historical context presentation: 10%; Annotated bibliography: 10%; Paper proposal: 5%;
Conference paper presentation: 5%; Seminar paper: 70%