

**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE MA/Ph D. PROGRAMME**

**IED 666/766 Renaissance English Literature (excluding drama)**

**READING LIST**

**Instructor** : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hande Seber  
**Year and Term** : 2013-2014 Fall

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**1. Aim and Contents:**

The aim of the course is to make students further their knowledge of Renaissance English Literature (excluding drama) and to illustrate this knowledge through a study of works representative of the literary achievements of the age. After a detailed historical background and a full discussion of the transition from classical antiquity to middle ages, the rise and development of Humanism, Petrarchism, Neo-Platonism and Reformation will be studied in detail with particular reference to some representative works. Following from this, the historical, social, political background of Renaissance England and representative literary figures, including the women poets of the time, and their works will be studied.

**Tentative Course Outline and Reading List:**

- The transition from classical antiquity to the middle ages,
- Cross-currents of the Renaissance thought
- The rise and development of Humanism: the early humanist artists and writers.
- The revival of Platonism, the Florentine Platonists. Extracts from their works (F. Petrarca, G. Boccaccio, M. Ficino, Mirandola)
- Petrarchism: Selections from Petrarch's poems.
- Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier*
- Reformation.
- Renaissance in England: social, political, historical background.
- Elizabethan court life,
- courtier poets and patronage
- The condition of women in Elizabethan England and their role and place in literature and culture.
- Queen Elizabeth I and the idea of the Golden Age.
- Rise and development of sonnet tradition in England:
  - Sir Thomas Wyatt
  - Henry Howard Earl of Surrey
  - Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella*.
  - Edmund Spenser's *Amoretti*,
  - William Shakespeare's *Sonnets*.
  - Lady Mary Wroth's *Pamphilia and Amphilantus*
- Elizabethan women poets, with particular emphasis on Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke.
- The origin and development of Pastoral:
  - Spenser's *The Shepheardes Calender*,
- Elizabethan Prose Writing (critical, satirical writings, defenses)
- Sir Philip Sidney's *The Defence of Poesie*
- Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* and the epic tradition
- Ovidian Poetry : Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*, C.Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*.
- A general assessment of Renaissance English Literature