English 615
The History of Rhetoric
Dr. Patrick Shaw
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Tue 12:30-4:30 and Fri 12:30-2:00
Summer 2015

This iteration of ENG 615 surveys ancient Greek and Roman rhetorics from the sophists of Periclean Athens to Augustine of Hippo. The course examines the competing definitions and uses for rhetoric and its changing relations with philosophy, ethics, politics, and poetics in the ancient Western world. It also explores the ancient theories’ implications for rhetoric’s definitions and roles in modern and postmodern culture and society.

English 626
British Literature of the Early Modern Period:
The Renaissance Body Displayed
Dr. Charles Conaway
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Thu 12:30-4:30 and Mon 12:30-2:00
Summer 2015

In this seminar we will examine the Body as it appears and is understood in the literature of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period. The punishment of the body was a public event. Bodies were burned, drawn, quartered, beheaded, and displayed in order to demonstrate the power of the state. Royal power was on display in portraiture and pageantry, especially during the reign of Elizabeth, who appropriated the Cult of the Virgin Mary and relied on the Medieval Theological Doctrine of the King’s Two Bodies in order to secure the right to rule as an unmarried woman. Bodies were open to investigation in anatomy theaters where early modern doctors were convinced by Galen’s theory of the one-sex model of the human body. Bodies—especially female bodies—were anatomized in the blazon of courtly love poetry. Bodies were on display even when they were clothed. In the public theaters, boy actors cross-dressed and played female characters, who often disguised themselves as boy pages—a theatrical convention that more or less brought the boy actor’s body back onstage. More rarely, but much more notoriously, cross-dressed women could be found, not in the London theaters, but in the streets of London itself. The English Renaissance also saw the beginning of colonial expansion, and encounters with Jewish, Irish, Muslim, African, and Native American others are dramatized in its literature. The primary objective of this course will be to analyze early modern depictions of the human body through historicist, feminist, Marxist, and postcolonial perspectives in order to note their relation to Elizabethan and Jacobean religious politics and English nationalism. But we will also attempt to draw connections between the early modern understandings of the body and our own twenty-first century perspectives.