

engl-5315-061-strong-summer-2026

ENGL 5315.061, Studies in the English Renaissance, Summer 2026

Dr. David Strong, CAS 235

Office Hours: Fridays 8-11 or by appointment

Aim of Course:

In the early modern period, major urban centers stabilize the economy, allowing the growth of commerce and education. With this stabilization, poetry evolved to consider the romantic interests of the individual. A more personal style developed, and poems clearly showed themselves as a way for the poet to reveal his feelings to the one he loved. In the middle of the sixteenth century a plethora of poetic talent appeared in England, influenced by the art and literature of the Italian Renaissance a century before. Specifically, the sonnet gains momentum as the dominant poetic form to convey these interpersonal desires. In the seventeenth-century, these affections acquire greater profundity in the writings of Metaphysical poets, like John Donne. Metaphysical poetry, in the full sense of the term, is a poetry which has been inspired by a philosophical conception of the universe and the role assigned to the human spirit in the great drama of existence. This philosophical connection can explore the transcendental import of romantic love and express it in vibrant, often non-traditional, imagery.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret a number of passages in light of the text's dominant themes.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the cultural or historical significance of the texts.
3. Explain how literary genres determine a text's construction.
4. Synthesize a detailed knowledge of literary works belonging to a specific time period.
5. Write informed, compelling literary arguments.
- 6.

The grade will be based upon four three-page analysis papers, which include an annotated bibliography, weekly posts on the discussion board, and one homework assignment. When writing the weekly papers, you *must* follow the structure posted on Canvas entitled, "How to Write a Strong Paper." Review the grading rubrics posted on the "Getting Started" section of Canvas to understand how best to complete the assigned tasks. If any changes are necessary to make on this syllabus, you will be notified through e-mail on your Canvas account.

The breakdown of points is as follows:

Weekly Paper	100 points each	400 points total
Annotated Source	1 point per week	4 points total
Homework Assignment	10 points	10 points total
Canvas Post	8 points per week	40 points total

A = 454-408 points

B = 407-363 points

C = 362-317 points

D = 316-272 points

F = 271- 0 points

Please note: a college education is meant to teach students to think outside of their own viewpoints—to expose them to multi-faceted ways of thinking and knowing. That is intellectual growth and exploration. A student will not be excused from class discussion or assignments simply because they do not agree with the text. Topics such as religion, sex, and politics are fundamental in literary studies and, thus, will be examined in detail in this course.

Syllabus ENGL 4305

1st Week:

June 1-4 Thomas Wyatt, “Whoso List to Hunt”
[Whoso List to Hunt, I Know where is an Hind | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Thomas Wyatt, “They Flee From Me”
[They Flee From Me | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Henry Howard Earl of Surrey, “Set me whereas the sun doth parch the green”
[Sonnet 8 \[Set me where as the sun doth parch the green\] by Henry Howard - Poems | Academy of American Poets](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Henry Howard Earl of Surrey, “Love that doth reign and live within my thoughts”
[Love that Doth Reign and Live by Henry Howard](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Census Date is June 4
Homework Assignment due Thursday, June 4 by midnight.

2nd Week:

June 5-11 Edmund Spenser, “Epithalamion”
[Epithalamion | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Edmund Spenser, “Amoretti” Sonnet 1
[Amoretti I: Happy ye leaves when as those... | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Edmund Spenser, “Amoretti,” Sonnet 4
[Edmund Spenser – Amoretti: Sonnet 4 | Genius](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

1st Paper due on Thursday, June 11 by midnight.

3rd Week:

June 12-18 Christopher Marlowe; “Hero and Leander”
[Hero and Leander | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
Sir Walter Raleigh, “Nature, That Washed Her Hands in Milk”
[Nature, That Washed Her Hands in Milk | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

2nd Paper due on Thursday, June 18 by midnight.

4th Week:

June 19-25 John Donne, “The Canonization”
[The Canonization | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
John Donne, “The Ecstasy”
[The Ecstasy | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
John Donne, “The Sun Rising”
[The Sun Rising | The Poetry Foundation](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

3rd Paper due on Thursday, June 25 by midnight.

The last day to withdraw is Wednesday, June 24.

5th Week:

June 26-July 2 Robert Herrick, “Upon Julia’s Clothes”

[Upon Julia's Clothes | The Poetry Foundation](#)Links to an external site.

Robert Herrick, “Corinna’s Going A-Maying,”

[Corinna's going a Maying | The Poetry Foundation](#)Links to an external site.

Robert Herrick, “His Last Request to Julia”

[His last request to julia by Robert Herrick](#)Links to an external site.

Robert Herrick, “Dream.”

4th Paper Due on Thursday, July 2 by midnight.

AI is not permitted in this course at all.

I expect all work submitted for this course to be the students’ own work. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler’s Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Communication with Instructor

The best way to contact me is via Canvas e-mail. Per the [UT Tyler email policy](#)Links to an external site. which stipulates that "the Patriot Email account serves as the communication source for all UT-Tyler learning management systems," I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses. Emails should be written in a somewhat formal style and tone—full sentences, reasonably correct grammar, and a succinct overview of the topic. So, less formal than the style you would use in a paper and more formal than the style you would use in a text to your friends.

Course Expectations:

According to the university’s policies on academic misconduct and non-academic misconduct, you will not engage in any academic misconduct in this course, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, use of unattributed sources, and cheating on exams. Any kind of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in my being turned into the student disciplinary committee and automatically failing the class.

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>.Links to an external site.