Props, Prosthetics and Cosmetics: Constructing Embodied Difference on the Early Modern English Stage

THEA 1903, FALL 2017 Cathedral of Learning, 204 Tuesdays, 3:00-5:25pm

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appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This undergraduate seminar will explore the drama of Shakespeare and his contemporaries with a focus on the role of theatrical properties, body paint, and prosthetics in constructing identity—particularly gender and race—on the all-male English stage.

The early modern English theatre scene was a highly competitive marketplace. We will carefully examine a number of performance conventions within the context of the theatre as a commercial enterprise, including gender disguise, blackface, and pregnancy plots—as well as how these conventions changed over time. We will consider whether these changes arose from public demand and popularity, and how we might come to determine such things in a period with very few surviving performance records.

Readings will include canonical plays by William Shakespeare (Winter's Tale, Othello) as well as work by Ben Jonson (Epicoene), and John Ford ('Tis Pity She's a Whore). We will also read a number of plays that are rarely—if ever—performed today, including The Second Maiden's Tragedy by Thomas Middleton and The Fatal Contract by William Heminges. In addition to the dramatic literature, students will read contemporary criticism and recent historical scholarship to jumpstart our seminar discussions.

Please note this is a W class. Students will engage the material through discussion, original, critical writing, and revision. The writing and reading for the class will be extensive and every student will produce at least 20–24 pages of original writing over the course of the semester. In addition, students will have the opportunity to receive feedback on their writing and revise their argument, style, and research accordingly. Though it will not be required, students will have the opportunity to engage the material through performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students will have achieved:

- An understanding of theatre as part of a lucrative entertainment industry
- An awareness of the fact that the city of London, the physical spaces of the
 early modern playhouses, and a number of material and cultural factors—props,
 music, special effects, audience expectations—shaped the plays written in this
 period and, by extension, inform the printed play editions that we now read
- An understanding of the actor's body as centrally important to early modern drama
- A consideration of the emotional effects and impact of live drama upon historical and contemporary audiences
- A facility with script analysis and the reading of play-texts for embedded stage directions

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS

Books

Karim-Cooper, Farah. Cosmetics in Shakespearean and Renaissance Drama.

Edinburgh University Press. 2012.

ISBN: 978-0748673339

Stern, Tiffany. Making Shakespeare: from Stage to Page, Routledge, 2004.

ISBN: 978-0415319645

Plays

Ford, John. 'Tis Pity She's a Whore. (Arden Early Modern Drama). Edited by Sonia Massai. Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2012.

ISBN: 978-1904271505

Jonson, Ben. Ben Jonson's Plays and Masques. (Norton Critical Edition). 2nd edition. Edited by Richard L. Harp. W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.

ISBN: 978-0393976380

Jonson, Ben. The Devil is an Ass: and other plays. (Oxford World Classics). Edited by Margaret Jane Kidnie. Oxford University Publishing, 2001.

ISBN: 978-0198132295

Shakespeare, Measure for Measure. (Arden Second Series). Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 1998.

ISBN: 978-1903436448

Shakespeare, Othello. (Arden Shakespeare Third Series). 2nd edition. Edited by Ayanna Thompson. Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2016.

ISBN: 978-1472571762

Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale. (Arden Shakespeare Third Series). 3rd edition.

Edited by John Pitcher. Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2010.

ISBN: 978-1903436356

Webster, John. The Duchess of Malfi and Other Plays: The White

Devil; The Duchess of Malfi; The Devil's Law-Case; A Cure for a Cuckold. (Oxford

World's Classics). Edited by Rene Weis, 1996; 2009.

ISBN: 978-0199539284

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Womack, Peter. English Renaissance Drama. Blackwell Publishing 2006.

ISBN: 978-0631226307

These books are available at the campus bookstore or through online sellers. All reading materials (book chapters, plays, articles) that do not appear on the above list will be available on Courseweb.

These readings appear underlined in the course schedule below.

<u>Please note</u>: I strongly prefer that you get the proper books rather than trying to read these plays on your phone or from random places online. Those electronic versions (even E-Reader editions of the plays) often don't have act, scene, and line numbers and that makes it really difficult to get everyone on the same page—literally and figuratively. While I prefer the editions above, if you have your own copies of Shakespeare's collected works, or a copy of a play you've borrowed from the library to save money (who can blame you?), I would prefer that to any online/open source version.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change with notice)

DATE	TOPIC	DUE
WEEK 1	Syllabus & Course Introduction	
August 29		
	Introduce Book Review and	
	Response Presentation	
	Assignments	
WEEK 2	Evidence and Methodology:	 Top 3 selections for book reviews or
September 5	How do we know what (we think)	weekly response essays DUE
	we know?	• Stern, Making Shakespeare, ch. 1–5
		• Karim-Cooper, ch. 1–2
	Theatrical materials	Recommended: Womack, "Being a
		Woman"
	Research proposals	
WEEK 3	UNIT 1:	Middleton, The Second Maiden's
September 12	Cosmetics and the Formation of	<u>Tragedy</u>
	(toxic) Femininity	Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale
		Stevens, "Stone: Lost Ladies"
	Whiteness and Idealized	Poitevin, "Inventing Whiteness"
	Femininity:	Recommended: Womack, "William
	Carving Perfect Women	Shakespeare"
		Recommended: Womack, "Rising
	Book review:	from the Dead"
	Dania da Dania da Liana	
	Response Presentation:	
WEEK 4	Middleton's Revenge Cosmetic	Middleton, The Revenger's Tragedy
September 19	Tragedies: Paint and Poison	Review, The Second Maiden's Tragedy
		Karim-Cooper, ch. 3
	Book review:	Recommended: Womack, "Thomas
		Middleton"
		Recommended: Womack,
	Response Presentation:	"Revenger's Tragedy"
WEEK 5	Jonson's Theatrical Anti-	Jonson, Epicoene
September 26	Theatricality: Ambivalence and	Jonson, The Devil is an Ass
	"Theatrical Stuff"	Karim-Cooper, ch. 5
		Fisher, Materializing Gender in Early

WEEK 5	Book review:	Modern English Literature and Culture,			
September 26,	Response Presentation:	Introduction			
contd.		Recommended: Womack, "Ben			
		Jonson''			
WEEK 6	UNIT 2:	Shakespeare, Othello			
October 3	Performing and Constructing	Review Stern, pgs. 7–11			
	Blackness in Early Modern England	Hall, Things of Darkness, Introduction			
		Sherwood, "Black People in Tudor			
		England"			
	Book review:	Recommended: Hall and Erickson, "'A			
		New Scholarly Song': Rereading Early			
		Modern Race," Shakespeare			
	Response Presentation:	Quarterly, 67.1.			
WEEK 7	NO CLASS	Research Proposals DUE to Nic Barilar's			
October 10	Independent Research Meetings	mailbox by 5pm. Please submit in			
		hardcopy and to CourseWeb.			
	There will be no class on this day				
	due to the fall break on October				
	9. However, your research				
	proposals are due on today.				
	I will be available during the day if				
	you would like to talk about your				
	proposal before finalizing it. Please				
	set up an appointment.				
WEEK 8	Interrogating Blackface and	Heminges, The Fatal Contract			
October 17	Gender Disguise, part 1	Carr, "Material/Blackness"			
		Stevens, "The Eunuch much sears her			
		breast"			
	Book review:				
	Response Presentation:				
WEEK 9	Interrogating Blackface and	Brome The English Moore			
October 24	Interrogating Blackface and Gender Disguise, part 2	 Brome, The English Moore Webster, The Devil's Law-Case 			
OCIOD C I 24	Condei Disgoise, pari z	Stevens, "Mastering Masques of			
		Blackness"			
	Book review:	Recommended: Womack, "Richard			
	BOOK ICVICVY.	Brome"			
		BIOTHE			
	Response Presentation:				

WEEK 10 October 31	UNIT 3: Pregnancy and Performance on the English Stage Queen Anna of Denmark's Blackface Pregnant Performance Book review: Response Presentation:	 Jonson, The Masque of Blackness Floyd-Wilson, "Temperature, Temperance, and Racial Difference" Review Stevens, "Mastering Masques of Blackness" Review Carr, "Material/Blackness" 		
WEEK 11 November 7	Pregnancy and Patriarchal Anxiety Book review:	 Shakespeare, Measure for Measure Ford, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore Luttfring, "Pregnancy, Interiority, and the Circulation of Knowledge" Review Winter's Tale 		
	Response Presentation:	 Recommended: Womack, "John Ford" Recommended: Womack, "'Tis Pity She's a Whore" Research Essay DUE 		
WEEK 12 November 14	"Cushion come forth": Pregnancy Plays and Prosthetics Book review: Response Presentation:	Middleton, More Dissemblers Besides Women Excerpts from: May, The Heir & Heywood, The Golden Age Review Webster's The Devil's Law-Case Shapiro, "Cross-Gender Disguise plus		
WEEK 13 November 21	TBA	Cross-Gender Casting"		
WEEK 14 November 28	Research Presentations			
WEEK 15 December 5	Research Presentations Debrief	Questions about Writing Portfolios		
WEEK 16 December 12		Final writing portfolios DUE by NOON — submit to mailbox or deliver to Dr. Thiel's office. Please make sure to submit the entire portfolio to CourseWeb, as well.		

GRADE SCALE

A + = 98 - 100	B+ = 87-89	C + = 76 - 79	D+ = 67-69
A = 93-97	B = 83-86	C = 73-75	D = 63-66
A - = 90 - 92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62
			F = 60 and below

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

Participation —10 points
Response Essay & Presentation **OR** Book Review —15 points
Research Proposal — 5 points
Research Essay — 20 points
Research Presentation —10 points
Final Writing Portfolio — 40 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100

A NOTE ABOUT SUBMITTING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Students will submit all written assignments as hard copies in class, as well as digitally through CourseWeb. If assignments are not submitted through CourseWeb and submitted as a hard copy, they will not be graded. All hard copies must be stapled and will not be accepted otherwise.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Please note: all written assignments must adhere to standard formal formatting practices. This means, all written assignments should have a clear heading that includes your name, the name of the assignment, the name of the course, and the date. In addition, please use 12-point-font, 1-inch margins, page numbers, and a standard serif or sans-serif font such as **Times New Roman** or **Arial**. If you are submitting a formal essay, please give it a title. The title can be as fun or descriptive as you like. **All assignments must be stapled**.

Participation (10%)

This small group only meets once a week; each seminar meeting will focus on group discussion of the assigned reading material. That means in-class participation is crucial to your success and the success of the course as a whole. In order to participate fully, please bring the readings to class every week. If you fail to do the assigned reading or fail to contribute meaningfully to seminar discussions on a weekly basis, you are not only letting down your colleagues, but you will forfeit your own participation points (up to 10% of your final grade).

Critical Response and Class Presentation (15%)

All students must critically respond to course readings **or** write a critical book review of a text that relates to course material. Students are required to present their analysis to the class in a 10-minute presentation and field questions from the class.

Assigned Reading Response Essay and Presentation

Students can choose to present a response to the week's course readings. Your response essay should respond to the play(s) and the secondary readings for the week (including those which should be "reviewed" for the week). Students will work to synthesize and analyze the readings in their own words; in turn, student responses and arguments will jumpstart our class discussion (no PPT, please).

Response essay must be between 750 and 1000 words. Students should be prepared to read their responses aloud and field questions from the class (no PPT, please).

OR

Book Review and Presentation

Each student may choose one book from the attached course bibliography and write a review of it. If you come across a book that is not on the bibliography but relates to the course material, please contact me in order to receive approval. The book must be a monograph or collection of essays (as opposed to a journal, article, or edited play).

Book reviews must be between 750 and 1000 words. Students should be prepared to give an oral presentation of their book review, and field questions from the class (no PPT, please).

Research Proposal (5%)

Every student will submit a 250-300 word proposal for their research project. Students will then receive feedback and questions to help crystallize their research questions. I will not accept complete research essays without an approved research proposal.

More information will come later.

Research Essay (20%)

Each student is required to write a research essay that explores at least one early modern play while engaging primary and critical, peer-reviewed secondary sources. The play can be one we read in class (or not) that wrestles with or somehow showcases embodied difference via stage properties, cosmetics, prosthetics, or costumes. Examples

of embodied difference include: gender, race, disability, age—or whatever else you may find. For the purposes of this class, please only consider plays dated between 1570 and 1642.

More information will come later.

Research Presentation (10%)

At the end of the semester, every student will give a brief presentation of their research project to the group. You may use whatever audio/visual elements you find necessary. Students will share with the class their initial research question and proposal, as well as how their project changed as they collected evidence and received feedback on their writing.

More information and specific instructions on the presentation will come later.

Final Writing Portfolio (40%)

At the end of the semester, students will submit a final writing portfolio that includes the original graded research proposal (with instructor comments), an updated abstract that reflects the current state of their revised research essay, the original graded submission of their research essay (with instructor comments), and a revised version of their research essay. Students will need to revise their research essay to incorporate feedback from instructors, as well as include additional research, information, and changes they deem appropriate. So, hold on to your graded essay and proposal—you'll need them in order to receive full credit on your portfolio.

More information and specific instructions on the portfolio will come later.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Attendance and Late Arrival Policy

This class only meets once a week. As a result, each student will receive only one "gimme" absence—whether you're sick, need to leave town, or need a mental health day, that's fine. Everyone is entitled to one unexcused absence, which is the equivalent to missing an entire week of class. However, after your first absence, each additional absence will come at the penalty of a 1/3 reduction of the final letter grade. For example, if at the end of the semester, you have an A- but also have 4 absences, your final letter grade will be a B-. Use your absence wisely.

Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Please be on time and ready to begin discussion promptly at the beginning of the scheduled class time. If you have questions or concerns about this, do not hesitate to contact me.

Inclusivity

An important aim of this course is to promote an inclusive learning community that encourages the dynamic, open exchange of ideas and affirms the diversity and dignity of participants and perspectives within a mutually respectful environment. We will engage with topics and theories that may challenge your assumptions about the world, but will do so in a way that values diverse perspectives and experiences and encourages productive reflection and interaction. I expect that students will voice their opinions and arguments in a respectful manner. If there are aspects of this class that produce barriers to your inclusion from course content or discussion, please contact me privately. I'm happy to talk.

Gender Inclusivity Statement

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to use a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. If you feel comfortable, please feel free to privately discuss your preferred pronouns, and correct me if I misgender you. I will not take any offense if you correct me; rather, I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to help you feel comfortable in class. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Late Work

All assignments are due at the start of class on the day indicated in the syllabus. It is your responsibility to manage your time; no extensions will be given except in extraordinary circumstances. If you feel your situation qualifies as extraordinary, do not hesitate to contact me.

If you miss your in-class presentation, it cannot be made up at a later date. If you know you are going to be absent on the day you are assigned to present, please let me know as soon immediately. If possible, I will assign you to a different day.

For all other assignments, I will not accept any late work. You are responsible for acquiring material that you miss in the event of absence or tardiness.

Electronics

Laptops and tablets may be used to access and/or take notes during discussion. Electronics may not be used for non-class related activity. Please do not check your email, prepare for other classes, or engage with social media during this class. If you do engage with your technology for non-class related activity, your overall participation grade will be lowered. Please, no cell phones.

Theatre Arts Department Media Statement

In accordance with "The Pitt Promise: A Commitment to Civility," The University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct, and the professional standards and expectations of our field, students, staff and faculty in the Theatre Arts Department agree to the positive, responsible and respectful use of social media. The Theatre Arts Department's commitment to civility includes zero tolerance for public aspersion upon students, classes, facilities; the un-approved posting of production videos or photos, per Equity guidelines; cyber bullying. Any member of the university community may file a complaint in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Access the Student Code of Conduct and its procedures here: http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/studentconduct

Access the Pitt Promise here: http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittpromise

Academic Integrity

Students in this course must comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. (Plagiarism, copying of assignments, and cheating is not tolerated. Violating the University-wide policy on academic honesty will result in automatic failure of the assignment, likely failure of the course, and possible sanction by the University.) For further information see: http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ail.html

Accommodations

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412.648.7890/412.383.7355 (TTY), as early as possible. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Writing Center

While students will receive ample feedback and opportunities for revision in the class, you are encouraged to visit the Writing Center on campus for additional assistance. Learn more: http://www.writingcenter.pitt.edu

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

(A good place to start!)

BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND PRIMARY SOURCES

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- Buccola, Regina. "'Some Woman is the Father': Shakespeare, Middleton, and the Criss-Crossed Composition of Measure for Measure and More Dissemblers Besides

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 Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2010.
- Fisher, Will. Materializing Gender in Early Modern English Literature and Culture.

 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
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- Grazia, Margareta de, Maureen Quilligan, and Peter Stallybrass, eds. Subject and
 Object in Renaissance Culture. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Gurr, Andrew. Shakespearian Playing Companies. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.
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- ± Herbert, Henry. The Dramatic Records of Sir Henry Herbert, master of the Revels, 1623-1673, ed. Joseph Quincy Adams. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1917.
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- Kathman, David. "How Old Were Shakespeare's Boy Actors?" Shakespeare Survey: An Annual Survey of Shakespeare Studies and Production. Volume 58. (2005): 220-246.

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- **±**Nungezer, Edwin. A Dictionary of Actors and of Other Persons Associated with the Public Representation of Plays in England before 1642. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1929.
- **±** Paré, Thomas. "Of Poysons." The Works of that famous Chirurgion Ambroise Parey, trans. Thomas Johnson. London, 1634.
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KEY

± Primary source

BOLD = eligible for book review

PLAYS

Below you will find a list of plays that do not appear on the syllabus, but are related to the course material. You may be find it useful as you begin choosing your research question. You are, of course, welcome to research and write about plays we read in class. This list is—in no way—intended to be comprehensive. I encourage you to explore plays outside of this list, or the course reading list.

Anonymous, A Larum for London, or the Siege of Antwerp.

Barnes, Barnabe. The Devil's Charter.

Ford, John. The Lover's Melancholy.

Heywood, Thomas. The Fair Maid of the Exchange.

Heywood, Thomas. The Golden Age.

Heywood, Thomas. A Maidenhead Well Lost.

Heywood, Thomas. Love's Mistress: or the Queen's Masque.

Jonson, Ben. Bartholomew Fair.

Jonson, Ben. The Magnetic Lady.

Kyd, Thomas. The Spanish Tragedy.

May, Thomas. The Heir.

Middleton, Thomas. The Bloody Banquet.

Middleton, Thomas. A Chaste Maid in Cheapside.

Middleton, Thomas. No Wit/No Help Like a Woman's.

Middleton, Thomas, The Witch.

Middleton, Thomas and William Rowley. A Fair Quarrell.

Peele, George. King Edward the First.

Rowley, Samuel. The Birth of Merlin, or the Childe Hath found his Father.

Rowley, William. When You See Me, You Know Me.

Rowely, William. Thomas Dekker, and John Ford. The Witch of Edmonton.

Settle, Elkanah. Love and Revenge.

Shakespeare, William. All's Well that Ends Well.

Shakespeare, William. As You Like It.

Shakespeare, William. Titus Andronicus.

Shakespeare, William. Twelfth Night.

Webster, John. The Duchess of Malfi.

Webster, John. The White Devil.

List of Course Terms

Elizabethan drama: Plays and theatre from the reign of Elizabeth I (1558–1603). You may sometimes hear or see this referred to as "Stuart drama" as well.

Jacobean drama: Plays and theatre from the reign of James I (1603–1625). I will sometimes refer to this as "Stuart drama," as "Stuart encompasses both the time of James I and his son. Charles I.

Caroline drama: Plays and theatre from the reign of Charles I (1625–1649).

Early Modern: For the purposes of this class, "early modern," "early modern theatre," and "early modern England" all refer to the period between the 1560s and 1640s when professional secular theatre emerged and thrived in London. Contemporary theatre, performance, and Shakespeare scholars sometimes use the term "early modern" in lieu of "Renaissance."

Pregnancy Play: The defining characteristic of this dramatic subgenre is a pregnancy (whether visible or unknown to the audience) or pregnant character that drives the action of a plot in some significant way.

Revenge Tragedy: Revenge plays derive from Greek and Latin tragedies; the modern descendants of these plays are contemporary films structured around a person (usually a lone male revenger) hunting down the people responsible for injuries to his family, his partner, etc. Revenge tragedy takes themes, motifs from Senecan tragedy and are known for staging gruesome violence.

Prop, **Prosthetic**, and **Cosmetic**: To be defined and debated throughout the semester!