Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Noah Peterson  
Course: ENGL 317  
Title: Early British Drama

Description: This course will explore the history and development of drama in English from the medieval period through the early seventeenth-century. The bulk of the course will be dedicated to drama in Middle English, which once was studied as crude precursors of Shakespeare’s triumph, but now is recognized for its own qualities. From here, we will move to several Tudor and Early Modern plays, including Marlowe's Doctor Faustus and Beaumont’s Knight of the Burning Pestle. Topics will include: staging, audience reception, audience participation, drama as social critique, vernacular plays and their engagement with the sacred, religious and civic institutions, and theological concerns.

Proposed Readings: Fulgens and Lucre; Mankind; Everyman; Castle of Perseverance; Digby Mary Magdalene; The N-Town Plays; Doctor Faustus; Knight of the Burning Pestle