

## **E20A Poetry I: Chaucer to Pope** **Weeks 2 - 3 The Courtier Poets**

### **Topics:**

The stylistic and thematic influence of Petrarch  
 The Sonnet form: the first lyric of self-consciousness  
 The Medieval lyric: didactic verse/plain style and courtly verse/eloquent style; religion and sex

The reign of Henry VIII: the break with Rome  
 Wyatt the European diplomat

#### *Amor courtois*

Love and courtly politics  
 The Renaissance notion of *allegorie*

The reign of Elizabeth I: establishing the English nation  
 Sidney  
 The European Re(co)nnaissance: the beginnings of the imperial adventure  
 Raleigh the explorer

### ***Required Readings:***

Petrarch Rime sparse # 164, 165 (1304-74) (F)

ChaucerChaucer (1343-1400) Complaint to His Complaint to His Purse / Against Complaint to His Purse / Against Wo  
 (NAP)

Anon I I Have a Gentle Cock / Timor Mortis / There is a Lady Sweet and Kind  
 / Yet If His Majesty, Our Sovereign Lord (NAP)

Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-42) PoemsPoems # 7\*, 34\*,Poems # 7\*, 34\*, 37\*, 57, 66\*,Poems # 7\*, 34\*, 37\*, 57, 6  
 KM [\* indicates that these may be found also in NAP]

Sir Philip Sidney Selections from Astrophel and Stella (1591) in NAP

SirSir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618) SelectionsSelections in NAP & The 21st (and last) BookSelections in NAP  
 to Cynthia (H)

### ***Recommended Readings:***

Sir Thomas Wyatt Poems # 2, 35, 71, 72, 75, 78, 83, 105, 124, 125 in KM  
 Castiglione The Book of the Courtier (1528/1589)  
 George Puttenham The Arte of English Poesie (1589)

## Sir Walter Raleigh     The Discoverie of Guiana (1596)

### *Secondary Readings:*

Bach, et al.	The Sonnet (LF)
Theodor Mommsen	Introduction to <u>Petrarch: Sonnets and Songs</u>
J.W. Lever	The Petrarchan Sonnet (in his <u>The Elizabethan Love Sonnet</u> )
Paul Oppeheimer	<u>The Birth of the Modern Mind: Self, Consciousness and the Invention of the Sonnet</u>
Douglas Peterson	The Medieval Lyric (in his <u>The English Lyric from Wyatt to Donne</u> )
Kenneth Muir	<u>Life and Letters of Sir Thomas Wyatt</u>
Raymond Southall	<u>The Courtly Maker</u> : chapters 4, 5, and 6
Michael McCles	Love and Power in the Poetry of Sir Thomas Wyatt <u>MLQ</u> 29 (1969)
Stephen Greenblatt	Power, Sexuality and Inwardness in Wyatt's Poetry (in his <u>Renaissance Self-Fashioning</u> )
Douglas Peterson	Sir Thomas Wyatt (in his <u>The English Lyric from Wyatt to Donne</u> )
A.C. Hamilton	Sidney in Life, Legend, and his Works (in his <u>Sir Philip Sidney: a Study of his Life and Works</u> )
---	The section on <u>Astrophel and Stella</u> in the essay entitled "Sidney's unselected vocation" (in his <u>Sir Philip Sidney: a Study of his Works</u> )
J.W. Lever	Sidney (in his <u>The Elizabethan Love-Sonnet</u> )
Arthur F. Marotti	Love is not Love: Elizabethan Sonnet Sequences and the Social Order <u>ELH</u> 49 (1982)
Andrew Sinclair	<u>Sir Walter Raleigh and the Age of Discovery</u>
Stephen Greenblatt	Raleigh and the Dramatic Sense of Life (in his <u>Sir Walter Raleigh: the Renaissance Man and his Roles</u> )
---	Raleigh's Court Poetry (in his <u>Sir Walter Raleigh: the Renaissance Man and his Roles</u> )

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### Weeks 4 - 5 Edmund Spenser

### *Topics:*

Patronage and the individual poet: Spenser and Queen Elizabeth

The blurring of the boundaries between the genders (Male/female) becoming mannish by virtue of doing things that were becoming vice versa: the example of Elizabeth I

The anxious concern expressed by reactionary social commentators like Phillip Stubbes and in anonymous pamphlets like Hic Mulier Haec Vir in the face of the blurring of the boundaries between the genders

England's first colony: Spenser and Ireland

Moral allegory

Spenser's stated goal: the fashioning of a virtuous gentleman

The epic form

The epyllion

### *Required Readings:*

Edmund Spenser The Faerie Queene: Book II The legend of Sir Guyon, or of Temperance (1596)

### *Recommended Readings:*

Edmund Spenser      *The Shepheardes Calender* (1579)  
                                  *Amoretti* (1595)  
 Sir Philip Sidney      *An Apology for Poetry* (1595) (K)  
 Christopher Marlowe   *Hero and Leander* (1598) (NAP)

***Secondary Readings:***

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**Weeks 6 - 7 William Shakespeare--the sonnets**

***Topics:***

A society in rapid flux: the blurring of class, gender, sexual, and racial boundaries

The blurring of the boundaries between the genders (Male/female) becoming mannish by virtue of doing things that were naturally the province of the other gender; vice versa: the example of Elizabeth I

The anxious concern expressed by real anonymous pamphlets like *Hic Mulier Haec Vir* in the face of the blurring between the genders

Patronage and the individual poet: Shakespeare and his male patrons

***Required Readings:***

William Shakespeare *Sonnets* (1609) (Selections in NAP)

***Secondary Readings:***

Lawrence Stone      *The Crisis of the Aristocracy passim*

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**Weeks 8 - 9 The Metaphysicals**

***Topics:***

Sex and religion

Skepticism

The metaphysical conceit

Lyrics, Elegies, Holy Sonnets

***Required Readings:***

John Donne    The Good Morrow / The Good Morrow / Woman's Constancy / The Sun Rising  
 Canonization / The Anniversary / Love's Growth / A Valediction: Weeping Weeping / Weeping / Love's Alchemy / A Valediction: Forbidding Entry  
 Ecstasy / The Funeral / The Relic (1633) (NAP)  
 The Elegies (1633) (selections in NAP)  
 Holy Sonnets (1633) (selections in NAP)

George Herbert    Redemption / Easter Wings / Affliction / Prayer / Jordan / Redemption / Easter  
 Monuments / The Windows / Denial / Monuments / The Windows  
 Virtue / Man / Virtue / Man / Life / The Collar  
 The Forerunners / Discipline / The Elixir / Love (1633) (NAP)

Andrew Marvell    The Coronet / The Coronet / A Dialogue Between the Soul and Body / To His  
 Mistress / The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers / The Mower  
 Against Gardens / The Mower to the Glowworms / The Garden  
 (1681) (NAP)

### ***Recommended Readings:***

John Donne    Devotions on Emergent Occasions (1624) (WW)  
                     Sermons XV, XXIII, LXXII (1640) (WW)  
 Ben Jonson    Song, to Celia / To Penshurst (1616) (WW)  
 Richard Crashaw    Selection in WW (1649)  
 Henry Vaughan    Selection in WW (1655)

### ***Secondary Readings:***

Cleanth Brooks    The Heresy of Paraphrase (in his The Well-Wrought Urn)

## ***E20A Poetry I: Chaucer to Pope***

### **Weeks 10 - 11 The Restoration: John Milton**

### ***Topics:***

The English Civil War: the death of the doctrine of Divine Right  
 Neo-classicism  
 Protestantism  
Paradise Lost as political allegory  
 The Fall of Man: Paradise Lost as Christian epic

### ***Required Readings:***

John Milton    Paradise Lost: book 1 (1667)

