English 226—Topics in Drama: ROMANCING THE GLOBE
MW 2-3:30, 224 Fisher-Bennett Hall

Professor Cyrus Mulready (mulready@english.upenn.edu)
OFFICE: Fisher-Bennett Hall, Room 235
OFFICE HOURS: M 12-2 and by appointment

Course Description:
“Traffic and travel has woven the nature of all nations into ours,” wrote one Renaissance playwright. “If we present a mingle-mangle, our fault is to be excused, because the whole world has become a hodge-podge.” The drama of the English Renaissance developed during a period of unprecedented expansion in global exploration and trade. In this course, we will consider how playwrights and theater companies responded to these historical circumstances. What kinds of stories and plays did they find most adaptable to representing travel overseas? Which sources did they draw on? What strategies did they use for staging and performing the foreign and exotic? These questions will open us to discussions on a broad range of topics, from race and gender to genre and poetic form.

Materials Required for the Course:
The following books are all available at the Penn Book Center (34th and Sansom). You should also be able to find them online, but it is important that you buy these specific editions (Publisher/Edition name in parentheses):

William Shakespeare, Henry V (Oxford)
William Shakespeare, Pericles (Oxford)
William Shakespeare, The Tempest (Oxford)
William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice (Norton)
Francis Beaumont, The Knight of the Burning Pestle (New Mermaids)

Many of our plays and readings will be made available in a course reader, which you can purchase at the IKON copy center in Levine Hall

Requirements and Grading

- **Attendance, Preparation, and Participation**: I expect active participation from all members of the seminar. You should read the assigned texts at least once before our class meetings, and come to class ready to participate in our discussions. Each of you will also open class discussion at least once during the semester by giving a short (5 minute) presentation based on topics or questions I will assign ahead of time. Please note that missing several classes will adversely affect your grade. You should also make an effort to be on time for class; expect habitual tardiness to be counted in your final grade.

- **Written Work**:
  - Essays—You will write two short (3-4 page) papers over the course of the semester. I will provide specific instructions for these assignments in advance of their due dates.
Provisional Weekly Schedule

- Final Project/Essay — Your final project for this course will involve research on a subject of your choosing. You will write an essay of roughly 10 pages based on this research.

**Grading** Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

**Attendance, Preparation, and Participation as follows:**
- Class Participation 20%

**Written work, distributed as follows:**
- Essay 1 15%
- Essay 2 25%
- Final Essay 40%

**Please Note:**

Late papers will be downgraded 3 points for each day they are late.
Provisional Weekly Schedule

**Introduction**

Week 1:
Wednesday, 9/6 Syllabus and Introductions

Week 2:
Monday, 9/11
Excerpt from Philip Sidney’s *Defense of Poesy* (Handout)
Howard, “Shakespeare and Genre” (Handout)

**Narrative, History, and Romance**

Wednesday, 9/13 Begin Dekker, *Old Fortunatus* (Coursepack)

Week 3:
Monday, 9/18 *Old Fortunatus*
Wednesday, 9/20 *Old Fortunatus*

Week 4:
Monday, 9/25 *Henry V*
Wednesday, 9/27 *Henry V*

Week 5:
Monday, 10/2 No Class

Wednesday, 10/4 Cohen Essay (Coursepack), *Henry V*, and *Fortunatus*
Friday, 10/6 **First Short Essay Due**

Week 6:
Monday, 10/9 Pericles
Wednesday, 10/11 *Pericles*

Week 7:
Monday, 10/16 *Pericles*
Wednesday, 10/18 Jameson, “Magical Narratives” (Coursepack)

**Island Romance**

Week 8:
Monday, 10/23 **Fall Break—No Class**
Wednesday, 10/25 *The Tempest*

Week 9:
Monday, 10/30 *The Tempest* and Strachey Letter
Wednesday, 11/1 *The Tempest* and Greenblatt (Coursepack)

Week 10:
Monday, 11/6 *The Sea Voyage*
Wednesday, 11/8 *The Sea Voyage*
Friday, 11/10 **Second Short Essay Due**

**Mercantile Romance**

Week 11:
Monday, 11/13 Greene’s *Orlando Furioso* (Coursepack)
Wednesday, 11/15 *Orlando Furioso* (Coursepack)

Week 12:
Monday, 11/20 *The Merchant of Venice*
Wednesday, 11/22 *The Merchant of Venice*

**Chivalric Romance**

Week 13:
Monday, 11/27 *The Foure Prentises of London* (Coursepack)
Wednesday, 11/29 *Foure Prentises* (Coursepack)

Week 14:
Monday, 12/4 *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*
Wednesday, 12/6 *Knight of the Burning Pestle*

**Final Essay Due Wednesday, 12/20**