

HUM 310: Early Modern European Literature

The goal of this course is to introduce students to some of the great – popular and classical works – written in Western Europe during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Readings include the bawdy tales of Chaucer, Boccaccio, Rabelais, and Cervantes; Dante’s great epic poem, *Inferno* (from “*The Divine Comedy*,”) Erasmus’ *Praise of Folly*, More’s *Utopia*, and Montaigne’s *Essays*. These timeless pieces have shaped and continue to shape the Western imagination from Shakespeare to James Joyce and Thomas Pynchon. Attention is paid to the historical contexts although emphasis will be on genres and forms.

Units: 3