

# Shakespeare's Contemporaries: Kyd, Marlowe, Jonson, and Webster

**Time:** Summer 2025. Tues. 11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (May 27 – July 15.)

**Location:** Maryland Pkwy campus, 4350 S. Maryland Pkwy. MAB2. Room TBD.

**Instructor:** Alfred J. Drake, Ph.D.

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**Recommended Texts** (\*These editions can often be bought used at lower cost.)

Kyd, Thomas. *The Spanish Tragedy*. New Mermaids / Methuen, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1408114216.

Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus*. New Mermaids / Methuen, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1474295178.

Jonson, Ben. *Volpone*. New Mermaids / Methuen, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1350007796.

Webster, John. *The Duchess of Malfi*. New Mermaids / Methuen, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-1474295673.

We will examine two Elizabethan and two Jacobean plays, excellent works by Shakespeare's earlier and later contemporaries. Thomas Kyd's revenge play *The Spanish Tragedy* (1582-92) and Christopher Marlowe's tragedy *Doctor Faustus* (1592-93) influenced Shakespeare as a young playwright, while Ben Jonson's witty comedy *Volpone* (1606) and John Webster's revenge play *The Duchess of Malfi* (1612-13) give us a sense of what was available to the London public in the time of Shakespeare's maturity. The London stage during the Elizabethan-Jacobean period was vibrant and wide-ranging, and Shakespeare, while preeminent, was one author among many busy, talented dramatic artists.

## Schedule (Subject to change)

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>May 27</b>	Course Intro; Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> , Acts 1-2.
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>June 03</b>	Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> , Acts 3-5.
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>June 10</b>	Marlowe's <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , Acts 1-2.
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>June 17</b>	Marlowe's <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , Acts 3-5.
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>June 24</b>	Jonson's <i>Volpone</i> , Acts 1-2.
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>July 01</b>	Jonson's <i>Volpone</i> , Acts 3-5.
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>July 08</b>	Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> , Acts 1-2.
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>July 15</b>	Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> , Acts 3-5.