

## English 4965W: Course Goals and Expectations

As a capstone course, this class has two central goals: 1) to teach you about Restoration and early eighteenth-century theater; and 2) to teach you how to conduct research in this field. As an “information literacy” course, it will require you to conduct the research using a variety of media: print (through Homer Babbidge Library); databases, in particular Early English Books Online (EEBO) and Eighteenth-Century Collections Online (ECCO); and reliable websites.

Each assignment is designed to build to the course’s finale: a ten-page, researched paper.

1. Short assignments requiring you to find 1) a primary source using either EEBO or ECCO; and 2) a secondary source using the MLA Bibliography. You will annotate each entry and post it online.
2. A short group presentation on a topic related to the reading of the day. This presentation will not be graded as it constitutes your introduction to research on Restoration theater. However, you will be expected to keep track of the work you contributed to the presentation, and all members of the group will fill out peer evaluations. Your research notes will be part of your final portfolio.
2. A short (three-page) paper on comedy. This paper will help me assess your writing.
3. Group presentation #2: staging a scene of your choice from a tragedy. This assignment is designed to help you understand how drama works in performance. I don’t grade individual performances, but again you will fill out peer evaluations and you will be expected to keep notes on your contributions to the project.
4. A five-page paper exploring a critical problem. This paper will focus on exploring primary and secondary sources rather than building an argument and may be used as the basis for your final paper.
5. Group presentation #3: a graded performance history of a specific play. The presentation should include visuals, PowerPoint or Prezi as appropriate, and an annotated bibliography that will be posted online.
6. The final paper on a topic of your choice. You will be expected to demonstrate your ability to analyze both primary and secondary sources. The last half of the course will be devoted to developing your topic, conducting your research, and writing your paper.
7. There will be no final examination for the course, however during our scheduled exam period, each student will give a brief (five minute) presentation on his/her topic.
8. The final portfolio, which will contain all of the work done during the semester.