

**San José State University  
School/Department  
ENGL 190: Honors Seminar**

**THE POET AND THE QUEEN: THE WORKS OF EDMUND  
SPENSER**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00-1:15 p.m. and by appointment.
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:45 p.m.
<b>Classroom:</b>	Clark 306
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper division standing

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page [www.sjsu.edu/faculty/eastwood](http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/eastwood)

**Course Description: The Poet and the Queen: The Works of Edmund Spenser**

It is well known that Karl Marx dubbed Edmund Spenser “Elizabeth’s arse-kissing poet.” Whether Marx was talking about Spenser’s poetry or some of Spenser’s prose works, critics have echoed the sentiment, and until fairly recently, have done little to challenge the assumption. My class will consider some of the more radical aspects of Spenser’s writing against some of the highlights (and lowlights) of Queen Elizabeth’s remarkable 45-year reign. I will argue that Spenser’s position in relation to his Queen is much more complex than many subsequent critics have thought.

This course will provide you with a strong historical and cultural background of Elizabethan England against which we will read several of Spenser’s poetic texts including ALL SIX BOOKS of the greatest poem ever written: *The Faerie Queene!* The

opportunity to read this poem in its entirety is a rare one at any level of scholarship, and this class will enable you to accomplish this impressive feat as an UNDERGRAD!

## **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

The primary goal of this course is to give you the opportunity to read, study, and discuss a number of canonical and non-canonical texts from the Elizabethan era. We will also explore the complexities surrounding sixteenth-century ideologies about gender, authority, and the construction of a national identity.

### **Course Content Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

PLO 1 Read close in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.

PLO 2 Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British literature.

PLO3 Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject.

PLO4 Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

PLO 5 Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

Levin, Carole. *The Reign of Elizabeth I*. Palgrave. ISBN 9780333658666.

Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queene*. Ed. A.C. Hamilton. Longman. ISBN 9780582099517.

*The Cambridge Companion to Spenser*, Ed. Andrew Hadfield, June 2001. ISBN 9780521645706.

*Spenser's Shorter Poetry*. Penguin Classics. Ed. Richard McCabe. ISBN 9780140434453.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Have the texts and supplementary materials read in full before each class and come prepared to discuss them. This may seem obvious, but you will need to bring the appropriate books to every class.

Cell phones or laptops, e-readers, or other devices do not belong in this class room unless explicitly directed by me.

## **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/academic\\_programs/calendars/academic\\_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

**Participation:** Because a large portion of this course involves discussion, regular attendance and active participation are imperative. Students will be expected to discuss the texts in detail. (PLO 1, 2, &5)

### **Written Work:**

Weekly Reader Responses (PLO 1, 2, 3) – For each section of the reading you will be required to keep a “journal” tracking plot and character development, as well as observations about imagery, poetry, and the like. These will be collected and reviewed several times during the semester.

2 Essays - 1 thematic (PLO 3), 1 research (PLO 4)

**Comprehensive Final Exam** (PLO 1, 2, 3, and 5).

**Final Project:** I would like final project responding to some aspect of Spenser’s poetry. Such a project could include a visualization of a episode or canto—a painting, a series of cartoons, a short film, a short piece of creative fiction inspired by something encountered in the text.

### **Grading Breakdown**

Participation 15%  
Reading Responses 5%  
Essay 1 - 20%  
Research Essay – 20%  
Final Project 15%  
Final Exam 25%

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Student Technology Resources (Optional)**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Writing Center (Optional)**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

## SAMPLE ENGL190: “The Poet and the Queen” Course Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**Table 1 Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 24 Aug. 26	Intros Intro to the period: Elizabeth’s life and reign
2	Aug. 31 Sept. 2	Levin Levin
3	Sept. 7 Sept. 9	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS From Spenser Companion: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8
4	Sept. 14 Sept. 16	From Spenser’s Companion: Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 Selections from <i>The Shepherd’s Calendar</i> From Spenser’s Companion, 4
5	Sept. 21 Sept. 23	<i>FQ</i> Book 1 From Companion 5
6	Sept. 28 Sept. 30	<i>FQ</i> Book1 ESSAY 1 DUE
7	Oct. 5 Oct. 7	<i>FQ</i> Book 2
8	Oct. 12 Oct. 14	<i>FQ</i> Book 2
9	Oct. 19 Oct. 21	<i>FQ</i> Book 3
10	Oct. 26 Oct. 28	<i>FQ</i> Book 3 ESSAY 2
11	Nov. 2 Nov. 4	Spenser’s Shorter Poetry – <i>The Amoretti and the Epithalamion</i> , From Companion Chapter 7.
12	Nov. 9 Nov. 11	<i>FQ</i> Book 4 , From Companion Chapter 6 VETERAN’S DAY – NO CLASS
13	Nov. 16 Nov. 18	<i>FQ</i> Book 4
14	Nov. 23 Nov. 25	<i>FQ</i> Book 5 THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
15	Nov. 30	<i>FQ</i> Book 6 RESEARCH ESSAY DUE

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
16	Dec. 7	<i>FQ</i> Book 6, Mutabilitie Cantos FINAL PROJECTS DUE
Final Exam	Dec. 16 12:15-2:30	BRING BLUE BOOKS