

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

## Early Modern Literature : Lost Heirs and Prodigal Sons (2AN1091)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>écrit: 4 h</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

### Equipe enseignante:

Rahel Orgis et Matthias Heim

### Objectifs:

- To introduce students to a variety of early modern genres and texts
- To analyse early modern representations of two popular recurrent motifs in a historical and generic context.
- To practise close-reading skills and prepare students for their PP6 written exam

### Contenu:

This seminar focuses on two plays by William Shakespeare and extracts from the early modern romances by Sir Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser and Lady Mary Wroth. The extracts from Sidney's *Arcadia*, Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, and Wroth's *Urania* share with Shakespeare's history play *Henry IV, part 1* and the late 'problem' comedy *The Winter's Tale* a pre-occupation with prodigal sons and lost heirs. The seminar's thematic concern with succession allows us to address one of the central memes of early modern literature, and we will discuss how these texts rearticulate political anxieties and explore the psychology of a latent unease about generational shifts, immured legacies and (class) identity. We will further trace how the texts engage with the present by opposing it to a mythical past, or at least a glorified history, and how the texts position themselves in relation to their literary precursors.

### Forme de l'évaluation:

- One analysis of text of 1100 to 1300 words (counts 25%)
- One essay of 1800 to 2100 words (counts 50%, one rewrite possible)
- One to two short in-class presentations (counts 25%)

### Documentation:

A reader with the primary texts will be sold (at cost price) in the first session. Additional weekly reading material will be made available on caroline.

### Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar