**The English & Otherness/English Language**

* England was a backwater no man’s land full of thugs and weirdos (says Virgil)
* *Utopia* by Thomas More – PRETTY BIG DEAL and originally published in Latin, then English later
* As travel became more possible, England became less and less isolated
* Nationalism begins to build
* Got lots of foreign visitors – learned from them and they changed the landscape/brought other cultures/languages
* Jews, people of color, other religions, foreigners, Jewish converts, etc. – all were outcast (very judgmental society)
* Africans were slaves & entertainment
* Elizabeth was an investor in slavery; believed it was good business
* England had pirates and explorers going all over the place and taking stuff
* Thomas More writes *Utopia* while experiencing the radical political ideas in the Netherlands (humanism = liberal movement depending upon the core belief that all men have the capability to determine their fate)
  + All “important” work was written in Latin
  + Latin = THE CHURCHS’ LATIN

**Elizabethan Court**

* “The Court” = the literal place and figurative surroundings of the heads of state
  + center of culture AND power
* Tudors = END of War of the Roses (houses of York and Lancaster finally chilled the heck out and got along, sort of)
* Markets expanded, international trade flourished, cities GREW
* Court fostered paranoia – everyone wanted to be in the “in crowd” and would kill to get there (kinda literally)
* Ripe for plays/poems/songs about secrecy, deception, murder, adultery, etc.
* Reformation = rethinking and questioning the power of the Pope – led by Martin Luther – *95 Theses* (he was all, “Hey the bible says you shouldn’t be rich…WTH pope??”)
* England wanted to BREAK pope’s rules, so English crown gets in trouble with pope (essentially king wanted a divorce…and to be head of “Church of England”)
* Caused a HUGE rift in England – Catholics with the Pope vs. Protestants with the King
* For a few generations England was like:
  + We’re protestant!
  + We’re Catholic!
  + We’re protestant!
  + We’re Catholic!
  + We’re all almost dead so….

**Female Monarch**

* Elizabeth
* Women were unfit to have positions of power in society
* Men regarded women as incapable of rational thought
* Women were “lead by passions”
* Women wanting power = DANGER!!
* Royal Absolutism = she is the queen and therefore she is the only power in England
* She used her gender as an asset – people loved her and she could use her beauty to curry favor
  + “Cult of love”
  + Never married, kept the “promise” of ally via husband alive but always at a distance

**The Kingdom in Danger**

* Elizabeth = protestant…Catholics invade a lot, try to assassinate her once and a while
* Mary Queen of Scots (Catholic) – finally executed by Elizabeth
* Spain was a threat – Elizabeth inspired soldiers to fight them

**Writers, Printers & Patrons**

* Literature wasn’t really something that got printed
* Being a writer = loserville
* No copyrights, not an established system of printing literature
* Writing/literature juuuuust began to be a business
* PATRONS = Bill Gates
  + Rich people who were like, “GO be an artist and tell people that I sponsor you so I look awesome”
* Women weren’t writers much, didn’t always learn to write/read, very rare
* Public theaters started to be a thing

**Tudor Style: Ornament, Plainness, and Wonder <<<Oxford Comma**

* Renaissance literature constructed differently
  + Rhetorical culture: art of persuasion
  + Elaborate language
  + Death <<< blunt, inevitable, confusing, can be beautiful, thematically popular
  + Mighty language
  + Exploration – of world and of language
  + “Infinite riches in a tiny room”
  + MAPS ARE COOL

**The Elizabethan Theatre**

* Early English theatre: religious/political dialogue, very straightforward
* Church didn’t like theatre much, felt it was too provocative, innovative, scary
* 1590 – drama/playwriting changes thanks to several people but Christopher Marlowe was a big deal
* Entertainment industry starts to flourish in England
* Boys could be apprentices to theater companies (actors, writers, builders, etc)
* Violence was very common in the plays (acted out on stage!)
* Theater was kinda seedy, dirty
* Stage was simplistic, not a lot of props
* Queen loved plays (didn’t care what church said)
* 1642 – English Civil War, theater is outlawed, doesn’t return until 1688
* Prior to this period, unities were observed, rules of Com and Trag were also strict – Elizabethan theatre broke these apart