Ph.D. Program Highlights

Eight tenured faculty members working in the field: Kasey Evans, Jeffrey Masten, Susan Phillips, Regina Schwartz, Laurie Shannon, Wendy Wall, William N. West, and Martin Mueller (emeritus).

Extraordinary field coverage in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century literature and culture; particular strengths in drama, poetry, the comparative and classical Renaissance, animal studies, digital humanities, gender and sexuality, history of the book, religion, Shakespeare, Spenser, and Milton, and writing by early modern women. Strong links to medieval and eighteenth-century faculty.

Interdisciplinary study with Northwestern Renaissance specialists in Art History (Jesus Escobar, Claudia Swan, Rebecca Zorach), French & Italian (Cynthia Nazarian), History (Lydia Barnett, Edward Muir, Scott Sowerby), Music (Linda Austern), and Religious Studies (Sylvester Johnson, J. Michelle Molina), as well as faculty in fields such as Classics, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Performance Studies, Theatre & Drama.

Local access to the consortium seminars and rare book and manuscript archives of Chicago’s Newberry Library. Our students have also secured internal and external funding for research travel to archives including the Folger, Huntington, Bodleian, British, and Vatican Libraries, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Current and recent students have received grants from the Mellon Vernacular Paleography Institutes, and the AAUW, ACLS/Mellon, Fulbright, & Woodrow Wilson fellowships, with multiple early modernist recipients of Northwestern’s highest graduate honor, the Presidential Society of Fellows.

Home of the semi-annual journal Renaissance Drama.

Colloquia and speaker series, including the Northwestern Early Modern Colloquium, and the Newberry Library’s History of the Book and Milton seminars.

Strong placement record in postdocs and tenure-track positions.
Northwestern’s English Ph.D. program enjoys a strong record of tenure-track placement. Our Ph.D.s move on to tenure-track and post-doctoral positions at a variety of colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, including such institutions as Boston Univ., Columbia, Elon Univ., Franklin & Marshall, Ohio State, Temple, Trinity College, Univ. of British Columbia, UNC-Chapel Hill, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Univ. of Texas at Austin, Washington Univ., and Wheaton College (MA). Recent Northwestern Renaissance Ph.D. students have placed articles in major scholarly journals, including Book History, Criticism, ELR, PMLA, Shakespeare Quarterly, and SEL.

Our Faculty


**Martin Mueller** (Ph.D. Indiana; emeritus) Digital textuality, Greek epic and tragedy, classical tradition in Western literature, Shakespeare, opera. Author: *Children of Oedipus and Other Essays on the Imitation of Greek Tragedy 1530-1800; The Ulysses*. Editor. The Chicago Homer (www.library.northwestern.edu/homer); WordHoard (wordhoard.northwestern.edu). Current projects: conversion of the ~500 EEBO early modern drama texts into a morphosyntactically annotated corpus as a “community annotation project” that allows for correction and data curation by user contributors.


**Laurie Shannon** (J.D. Harvard; Ph.D. Chicago). Literary and intellectual texts of the long sixteenth century; Shakespeare; history of ideas (political thought, affect, natural history, law, and medicine). Author: *Sovereign Amity: Figures of Friendship in Shakespearean Contexts* and *The Accommodated Animal: Cosmopolity in Shakespearean Landscapes*. Current projects: edition of Caius’s *Of the infinitesimal (before the microscope) and of Humanness*. 


**William N. West** (Ph.D. Michigan) Drama and performance, lyric, epic, encyclopedism and other early modern knowledge systems; poetics and aesthetics; classical literatures; Italian and continental literature. Author: *Theatres and Encyclopedias in Early Modern Europe*. Editor. Author’s Pen and Actor’s Voice: Writing and Playing in Shakespeare’s Theatre (by Robert Weimann); Rematerializing Shakespeare: Authority and Representation on the Early Modern Stage; special issue of *Renaissance Drama* on Italy.