

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – **Marlo** Belschner, English instructor at St. Cloud State University, will discuss the culture of hanging in Elizabethan England and its impact on dramatic literature at a free seminar on Thursday, July 18.

Belschner will share her recent research on texts by William Shakespeare and Christopher **Marlowe** with the public and Third Age University (TAU) participants in the CDE Room at Whitney Senior Center. The 9:30 a.m. seminar will include a one-hour presentation followed by a 45-minute question and answer period.

"Hanging was part of the national consciousness of early modern England," according to Belschner, who notes that more than 370 executions by hanging took place in England and Wales during each of the 65 years of Queen Elizabeth's and King James' reigns. The professor focuses on understanding the relationships between the sovereign, the local community, the hangman, and the condemned, then asks how the common experiences of hanging are translated into drama. Hanging, said Belschner, "is particularly interesting and important ... for examining complex issues of power and the boundaries of ideologies."

Belschner was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission to support further work on her book-length project about the culture of hanging in literary texts. The Minnesota Humanities Commission promotes excellence in humanities education through programs in family reading, K-12 education, civics, older adult learning, and grants for humanities projects.

TAU is designed to enrich the lives of individuals over the age of 50 through national and international speakers, entertainment, informative exhibits, and seminars. For more information about TAU, call 320-650-3081.