• Irrational
• Sudden, incurable infection
• Could let in evil and chaos

Chaos
• The undoing of God's creation
• Return to darkness and nothingness
• Contemporary fear of a return to the civil war period before the Tudor settlement

Courtly Love
• Arthurian heritage
• 'Knight in shining armour' idea
• Respectable man, upright, good morals
• Brought together masculine ideals of the soldier and the lover

Cuckoldry
• Becoming a horned beast
• Huge embarrassment; fear
• Man couldn't control his wife, and/or she had an unnatural sexual appetite

Chastity
• Society passed inheritance down the male line
• Men needed to be sure than their son was their own, and not another's bastard
• A man's reputation could be destroyed by an unfaithful wife

Literary
• Giraldi Cinthio; wrote 'El Capitan Moro'; source of Othello
• Traditional Greek tragedy; hamartia
• Revenge tragedy; Iago is a scheming Machiavel

Exploration
• Known world consisted of Africa, Europe and Asia
• Maps often made symbolically, with the holy city of Jerusalem in the centre
• Only the coast of Northern Africa was known in detail; further reaches of Asia were largely fable
• Europe bought luxury goods for China (eg. spice), but little firsthand knowledge of the Orient

The 'Other'
• Discovering new lands meant discovering new people
• Indigenous tribes were seen as a) inferior savages, needing to be converted to Christianity, or b) noble savages, purer than decadent Westerners

'New World' Imagery
• Propagandistic intent; advocated white supremacy
• Full of fabled riches and beauty of the New World
• Africa; land of mystery and exoticism
• America; golden and exotic world

Humanity
• Should be governed by reason, not passion
• Debasement of soul (i.e. Falling victim to passion) can be done through drunkenness or giving way to extreme sexual appetite
• Often compared to state, or body politic